

COLONIAL NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK

THE BELLFIELD ESTATE

GENERAL STUDY

by

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Foreword

On the York River some four miles above the later community of Yorktown, Capt. John West in the 1630s carved a plantation out of the primeval forest. Others soon followed his lead in this vicinity of Chiskiack. West, a strong leader in Virginia affairs, was for a time the acting governor of the colony. His York River estate in 1650 passed by sale to another prominent leader and future governor, Edward Digges. Digges went on to make his "E.D. Plantation" acres famous with his premium "E. Dees" tobacco, as well as with his serious, though essentially unsuccessful, effort to make Virginia a silk-producing country. Digges descendants remained here for more than a century and a quarter. In the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries there were various owners who maintained the land through the changing agricultural system. One President of the United States, John Tyler, vacationed here to enjoy York River fishing. In 1918 the estate became a part of a new Navy installation (now the Naval Weapons Station), and as such it continues.

The story of the Bellfield Estate, then, is multi-faceted. It embraces prominent people who were associated with it, the conquest of a segment of the Virginia wilderness, the growth and development of the plantation economy and the changing farm scene that followed. Besides, it is a bridge between the seventeenth-century Jamestown and the eighteenth-century Yorktown messages.

In the course of its over-three-hundred-year history, Bellfield witnessed two mansion house developments. The first, likely built by Capt. John West though possibly by Edward Digges, was a substantial brick home that burned after approximately a century of use. It was followed by a two-story frame home that remained in use for well over another century, until deterioration led to its demolition about 1925. This left the Digges tombs and a small brick structure (likely a later burial vault) as the only aboveground visible reminders of the rich story that is inherent in the place. Archeological reconnaissance has yielded data on the structures here and more undoubtedly lies underground awaiting recovery. The record of excavations to date, limited as it is, follows in full in Appendix III. Fortunately, too, several exterior photographs of the second home here were made before its demolition (Illustrations Nos. 13, 14, and 15). Inventories, too, offer additional help and these are included in Appendix II.

This report is offered in fulfillment of Colonial's Resource Study Proposal No. COL-H-4a, which requested a study "necessary for proper preservation and presentation" of the site. As complete a story as possible about buildings, land, owners, and users was specified. Initially this is required for guidance in needed additional archeological investigation and then in the formulation of development and use plans. It has long been projected in park plans that the mansion area will constitute a major wayside exhibit adjacent to Colonial Parkway, from which there is access. Though the site is now open for public visitation, it has to date received little attention (except Digges tomb restoration

and grass cutting) from the National Park Service. The site is presently within the confines of the Naval Weapons Station, but is operated and controlled by Colonial NHP through a renewable special public use permit, as is the neighboring (across Felgate Creek) Ringfield Mansion site on which a study such as this was completed by the writer in March 1970.

The author is grateful to Mr. J. Paul Hudson, Colonial's museum curator, for his helpful summary comment on the cultural material that has been excavated at the site and is now a part of the park's collection housed at Jamestown. This constitutes Appendix III-B of this report. The author again is much indebted to Mrs. Frances McLawhorn for her painstaking assistance in producing the typed draft of this study. Thanks and appreciation go, too, to Mrs. Judith Sprouse for the preparation of the final copy in its reproduceable form.

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CHAPTER 1

Into A New Frontier

Though the distance is short, even by the longer water route, it took 23 years for English settlement to reach the south shore of the York River in the Chiskiack Indian area above present-day Yorktown. This was so even though the strategic need was seen by Sir Thomas Dale as early as 1611.¹ Settlement in Virginia, however, spread first along the James and the lower reaches of Virginia's Eastern Shore before it turned naturally into, and up, the York. The Indian massacre of 1622 slowed the development and expansion that led to this.

After the retrenchment brought on by the massacre had begun to subside, there was renewed interest in this area and a greater realization that the wilderness here needed to be opened. The call was both a protective one-to hold back the Indians-and an economic one-the opening of good new land.² Even in 1623 it became a matter of serious discussion, though not of action, by Governor Sir Francis Wyatt and his council when

1. Calendar of State Papers, Colonial Series, 1574-1660 . . . Preserved in Her Majesty's Public Record Office, edited by W. Noël Sainsbury (London, 1860), p. 12. Dale believed that more settled plantations were needed, first at Point Comfort, "the second 15 miles from thence, at a place called Diskaick," a third at "James Town," a fourth at "Arsahattocks" (80 miles up the James), and a fifth some 10 miles farther up "to command the head of the river."

2. The William and Mary Quarterly, 1st Series, 16 (1907), 1.

a plan for "winning the forest" was under consideration. Early in 1627 the Council considered settlement here the "first means for many considerations to seat a sufficient party at Kiskyacke." It would offer opportunity "to annoy ye Indians" and be "a good retreat in case we may have beene overpowered by too powerfull a foreigne enemy."³ But it had to "consist of sufficient strength."⁴ The matter was before the General Assembly in October 1629 when "it was a business of great benefitt and good consequence to sende and maintaine a company of men to plant corne at Kiskyacke." The charge for "building" here would be shouldered by "the adventurers" who "should have shares of land to them and their heirs."⁵

Seemingly the first specific action came and trees began to fall about the time of the Council meeting on October 8, 1630, sometimes after the arrival of Sir John Harvey as governor. The Council issued an "order of Court" to the end of "securing & taking in of a tract of Land called ye Forest bordering uppon the cheife residence of ye Pamunkey King the most dangerous head of the Indian enemy." It was "after much consultation" that it was decided to "sett down several proportions of land for such Comanders" who would go, or had gone, as well as "fifty Acres per poll for all other persons who [went] the first yeare, five & twenty Acres for all Such who the second yeare should adventure, or be adventured to

3. There was still great concern that the Spanish would attempt to root out the Virginia colony.

4. Minutes of the Council and General Court of Colonial Virginia, 1622-1632, 1670-1676, edited by H.R. McIlwaine (Richmond, Va., 1924), p. 136.

5. The Statutes at Large; Being a Collection of All the Laws of Virginia . . . from . . . 1619, compiled by William Waller Hening, 1 (1809), 139-40.

seate & Inhabite on the Southern side of Pamunkey River . . . [the area] knowne by the Indyan name Chiskiack."⁶ The acreage would be in addition to the normal headright grant of fifty acres allowed for each person coming, or brought, into Virginia. This same court went on to make two grants indicating that the movement into this area was already underway. These were to "Capt Jno West & Capt John Utie [who as commanders] seat Chiskiaak on pamunkey River & have 600 acres a piece for it."⁷

West and Utie staked their acres bordering on the York below and above, respectively, the little peninsula created by present day Felgate and King Creeks, known too in the early days as West's and Utie's creeks. The little peninsula itself was in part taken up two months later in December 1630, becoming the seat of Capt. Robert Felgate.⁸ Others followed close behind Utie, Felgate, and West. Within two years, early in 1632, the area was populous enough to merit representation in the Virginia General Assembly.⁹ Soon too, even in 1633, there was embryonic local government

6. "Extracts from the Records of York County: Settlement of Chickiack," Wm and Mary Quart., 1st. Ser., 26, 27-28.

7. Minutes of Council and General Court, p. 479.

8. In time this was owned by Joseph Ring, who erected the Ringfield mansion here. This account is told by the writer's documented report Ringfield Plantation, Special Report, Colonial National Historical Park, Office of History and Historic Architecture, Eastern Service Center, National Park Service, September, 1970.

9. This was Nicolas Martiau, who represented "Kiskyacke and Isle of Kent." In the sessions of September 1632 and early 1633, he sat for "Kiskyacke" alone. Journals of the House of Burgesses of Virginia, 1619-1659, edited by H.R. McIlwaine (Richmond, 1915), pp. xi-xii.

(Shire, county) as well as the beginning in 1635 of established Church organization (a parish unit).¹⁰

CHAPTER 2

The Wests, Especially Captain John

John West, who as one of two commanders moved into "the forest" of Chiskiack in 1630, was by birth, temperament, and ability a leader on the Virginia scene almost from his arrival as a young man of 28 on the ship Bonny Bess in 1618. So too were his three brothers, Thomas, Francis, and to a lesser degree Nathaniel.¹ They were all children (John being the twelfth) of Sir Thomas West, the Second Lord De La Warr, and his wife, Lady Ann Knollys.²

It was John's brother, Thomas (1577-1618), who inherited his father's title, becoming the Third Lord De La Warr. He also became the first Governor and Captain General of Virginia on February 28, 1610. This new designation, as provided in the Virginia Company's reorganized governmental structure for the colony, gave the colony's head more direct responsibility. De La Warr's (Delaware's) timely arrival at Jamestown in June 1610 saved the settlement from abandonment. He, however, remained less than a year because of failing health. When

1. Martha Woodroff Hiden and Annie Lash Jester, Adventurers of Purse and Person: Virginia 1607-1625 (Princeton, N.J., 1956), pp. 349-50.

2. Anne was the daughter of Sir Francis Knollys and Catherine Cary, a first cousin to Queen Elizabeth I of England.

10. Virginia Colonial Abstracts, Volume XXIV, York County: 1633-1646, as abstracted by Beverley Fleet (Baltimore, 1961), pp. 5-6; Nell Marion Nugent, Cavaliers and Pioneers: Abstracts of Virginia Land Patents and Grants (Richmond, 1934), pp. 29-30; see also Hatch, Ringfield Plantation report.

he departed May 28, 1611, for the warm baths on the island of Nevis in the West Indies, he left Capt. George Percy in charge until the arrival of his deputy, Sir Thomas Dale.³

Nathaniel West (1592-1623), the third of the four West brothers to come into Virginia, was made, "Captain of the Lord Generals Company" on October 27, 1617, by Deputy Governor Samuel Argall. He located upriver in the Westover and the West and Shirley Hundred areas.⁴ It was in the Westover area that the brothers, Nathaniel, Francis, and John, evidently had separate land assignments, as it was reported that in the massacre two persons were killed at each of their locations.⁵

Though not called on to lead in the initial drives against the Indians following the massacre, Nathaniel was among those half-dozen persons commissioned by Governor Wyatt on July 17, 1623, to conduct followup punitive attacks. He was "to pursue the Salvages [sic] wth fire and Sword, especially to employ himself & his Company in cutting downe and destroying theire Corne."⁶ His particular assignments were against the "Apomatacks

3. Margaret Vowell Smith, Virginia: 1492-1892: A History of the Executives (Washington, 1893), pp. 47-49; Hiden and Jester, Adventurers of Purse and Person, pp. 349-50. After improvement in his health, Delaware returned to England. He did not attempt a return to Virginia until March 1618 and then, on June 7, he died en route.

4. Records of the Virginia Company of London, edited by Susan Myra Kingsbury, 3. (Washington, 1935), 75-75, 567.

5. "At Westover, about a mile from Berkeley-Hundred," at "Cap. Fr. Wests Plantation," "Master John West's Plantation," and "At Capt. Nathanael Wests." Va. Company Records, 3, 567.

6. Ibid., 4, 250-51.

and Tanx Weyonaques," Indian groups in an area on the north side of the river and across on the south side as well.

Nathaniel died later in 1623 at the early age of 32, though it is not known if this occurred during his expeditions against the Indians. He had married, and his widow Frances went on to marry in 1625 Abraham Persey, who had come as a widower to the Colony.⁷

John's brother Francis West (1586-1634) was active in Virginia affairs for much of three decades, from his arrival with Capt. Christopher Newport in 1608 until his death early in 1634.⁸ Family tradition has it that he died by accidental drowning. For much of his sojourn in Virginia he was a councilor. He was among those who went to England to represent the interests of the colony when the Virginia Company charter was revoked in 1624. He was back in England as a colony agent in 1629, particularly in opposition to the tobacco monopoly and Lord Baltimore's projected settlement of the Maryland colony to the north.⁹

7. Virginia Magazine of History and Biography, 1, 120-88; John Camden Hotten, The Original Lists of Persons of Quality . . . Who Went from Great Britain to the American Plantations (New York, 1931), p. 190. He was listed among the dead for "west and Sherlow hundred", one of eleven over the period of a year.

8. Lyon G. Tyler, Encyclopedia of Virginia Biography (New York, 1915), 1, 44; Hiden and Jester, Adventures of Purse and Person, pp. 349-50; Robert A. Brock, Virginia and Virginians, 1606-1688 (Richmond, 1888), 1, 16; Smith, Virginia: 1492-1892, p. 89; A Hornbook of Virginia History, issued by the Virginia State Library (Richmond, 1965), p. 103. Francis West was commandant at Jamestown (1615-1617) and in 1622 was named Admiral of New England to seek the suppression of the illicit fishing and trading there. Earlier, in 1609, when the settlers had been dispersed into three settlements for survival, he had had "commande" of that seated at the head of the James River (at the falls). Journals of the House of Burgesses of Virginia, 1619-1659, p. 29.

9. His work as agent is detailed in Ella Lonn, The Colonial Agents of the Southern Colonies (Chapel Hill, N.C., 1945), pp. 11-12, 26, 272.

When Governor Yeardley died in November 1627, Francis West was selected acting governor by his fellow councilors, a post which he held until he left for England in March 1629. Lyon G. Tyler has written: "His administration is distinguished for the assembling at Jamestown on March 26, 1628, after an interval of four years, of the regular law making body—an event second only in importance to the original meeting in 1619; for its restoration was proof that despite the revocation of her charter-Virginia was to continue in the enjoyment of political liberty."¹⁰ West had returned to Virginia before December 1631, for he attended a council meeting then with his brother John, as well as other sessions in 1632 and 1633. Perhaps he was then enjoying his plantation lands upriver in the Westover area where he had been in 1624.¹¹

Though he was often working in concert with his brothers, in private and in some public affairs,¹² it was John West alone who wrote the first chapter in the story of Bellfield Plantation by taking

10. Tyler, Encyclopedia of Va. Biog., 1, 44.

11. Francis West's muster was in that for "Elizabeth Cittie Beyond Hampton River" in 1625. He was listed as aged 36 and there were with him his deceased brother Nathaniel's wife and child, "Mrs Nathaniell West Widdowe" and "Nathaniell West borne in Virginia." Also, he enumerated six "servants," one a woman, and one "John Pedro, a Neger." He had, too, food supplies, some arms, and military supplies. From the muster reproduced in Hiden and Jester, Adventurers of Purse and Person, p. 62.

12. As in 1628 when Francis West, as governor, in court authorized Dr. John Pott and "his brother Capt John West as his Attorneys" to give one John Bridges satisfaction for the accounts of the estate of the late Mr. Hayes. Minutes of the Council and General Court, p. 187.

up the land in 1630 and proceeding to establish a home here, one that he would enjoy for some twenty years. This would follow a decade of varied experience in the Colony, experience weighted to Indian fighting and opening new frontiers.

Born in 1590 in Hampshire, England, John West had received a degree of Bachelor of Arts from Magdalen College on December 1, 1613. Five years later he came to Virginia, in the ship Bonny Bess. Both he and brother Francis were stockholders in the Virginia Company to the extent of fifty and twenty-five pounds sterling respectively. John had been a member since 1609.¹³ Soon after his arrival in Virginia, he was up the James River in the wilderness that was opened to form Westover Plantation, where he and his brothers had been granted land,¹⁴ and where there was, as has been noted, loss of life at the hands of the Indians in the March 1622 massacre.¹⁵ He then was among those sent to punish the Indians.

As "Capt John West," he lead a force against the "Tanx Powhatans," a tribe on the north side of the upper James. He was one of seven leaders, including the governor and the company's resident treasurer, who struck the Indians in all directions to the effect that: "In all wch places

13. Va. Company Records, 3, 89, 335-36; Va. Mag. Hist. Biog., 1, 423; Hiden and Jester, Adventurers of Purse and Person, pp. 349-50.

14. In March 1623, John was trying to settle his late brother Nathaniel's matters here laying a claim for "8 barrells of corne" against "Capt Thorpe or Berkeley [Hundred] Company." Minutes of the Council and General Court, p. 11.

15. Those killed at master John West's plantation were Christopher Turner and David Owen. Va. Company Records, 3, 567.

we have slaine divers, burnte their Towns, destroyde their Wears & Corn."¹⁶

At the time of the Jamestown musters early in 1625, John West seems to have been in residence or at least was occupying property on "James Ileand," where he was credited with a house and other small supplies and arms.¹⁷ A John West had also been living on "James Ileand" in February 1623. But at this time, John West was also listed as "At y Plantacon over agt James Cittie," meaning present Surry County.¹⁸ Along the south shore of the James River, across from Jamestown, the Indians were more difficult and this delayed the opening of this area to settlement until about 1619.¹⁹

Captain West would be instrumental in stabilizing this new area. A record of March 7, 1628, related that his commission as "Commander of the other side of the water" was renewed.²⁰ He and Robert Felgate, of whom he would be a neighbor on the York, represented this area in the assemblies meeting in 1629 and 1630. Likely, too, he sat in the assembly in 1628 for "The Other Side of the Water," although the record

16. Va. Company Records, 4, 9.

17. With him was a Thomas Crompe and he was possessed here of 5 barrels of corn, 3 bushels of peas and beans, 2 "flitches" of bacon, 1 "Peece", and 2 swords.

18. Hotten, Original Lists, pp. 178-79.

19. Charles E. Hatch, Jr., The First Seventeen Years: Virginia, 1607-1624, booklet No. 6 in the series published by the Virginia 350th Anniversary Corporation (Williamsburg, 1957), pp. 43-44.

20. Minutes of the Council and General Court, p. 192.

does not specify what plantation or constituency he represented in this session.²¹

Having already been instrumental in opening two Virginia areas, John West was now experienced and ready for a third, Chiskiack.²² Certainly he was qualified in his role as a commander, for which he was rewarded with a grant of land on October 8, 1630. There is this cryptic note in the records for this date: "Capt Jno West & Capt John Utie seat Chiskiaak on pamunkey River & have 600 acres a piece for it."²³

John West elected to lay out his six hundred acres, to which he added others, extending southward from Felgate Creek (which in his time was more

21. Journals of the House of Burgesses of Virginia, 1619-1659, pp. vii-ix.

22. In addition to opening Chiskiack, a further security measure for this and the larger area "within the compasse of the forrest conteyned between Queenes creeke in Charles [York] river, and Archers Hope [College] creeke in James river" soon followed. It was ordered in February 1633 that every fortieth man be chosen and assemble "at the plantation of Doct. John Pott, newlie built" before March 1. Their function would be the construction of houses and a palisade between the upper reaches of the two creeks, a relatively short distance of several miles. Should any "free men" before May 1 "voluntarilie goe and seate uppon the sayd place of the middle plantation," they would receive fifty acres each and some respite from "taxes and publique chardges." (Middle Plantation later became Williamsburg.) The palisade was reported complete, with the peninsula behind it secure, by Governor Harvey in July 1634. Hening, Virginia Statutes at Large, 1, 208; Calendar of British State Papers, Colonial Series, 1574-1660, p. 184; Richard L. Morton, Colonial Virginia (Chapel Hill, N.C., 1960), 1, 124.

23. Minutes of the Council and General Court, p. 479. The General Assembly in March 1643 found it necessary to confirm the titles inferred from the court orders of October 8, 1630. It was noted that "for the grant of land to the Undertakers that seated the first and second year upon Chescake and Yorke [that they] be hereby ratified and confirmed unto the said undertakers according to the true intent of the said order." Hening, Virginia Statutes at Large, 1, 257.

often noted as West's Creek), named for Robert Felgate who came to reside on the other side.²⁴ There are few specific references to the extent of his holdings, but there are a variety of notations in adjacent patents to others where his property is used as reference.²⁵ A particular note from records now lost relates: "By order of court, bearing date 6th of June, 1632, Sir John Harvy Knight, and the rest of the Council, granted unto Captain John West, 2000 acres of land, in consideration of his son being the first born Christian at Chiscayack."²⁶ This son was John West, Jr., who evidently grew up on his father's Chiskiack plantation.²⁷

It is not established that West claimed all of his acreage here, nor is it known how much was initially included in his home plantation. It is known that after twenty years, when he sold it to Edward Digges, it was a developed plantation of some 1,250 acres.²⁸ It evidently was conveniently bounded and sized since its ancient bounds and extent re-

24. Nugent, Abstracts of Virginia Land Patents, 1, pp. 24, 20, 80, 136, 220ff. These mention "Capt. John Wests Cr." (1635) and "a br. of Capt. John West Cr" (1637), "Capt West's Cr.", etc.

25. Ibid., pp. 14, 15, 24, 70, 72, 136, 189, 383.

26. "Conway Robinson's Notes from General Court Records", Va. Mag. Hist. Biog., I, 423.

27. Tyler's Quarterly Historical and Genealogical Magazine, 1, 233-34; Wm. and Mary Quarterly, 1st Ser., 15, 37, and 20, 73.

28. It may be only coincidental that the John Utie Chiskiack home plantation on "Utie his Cr." (present King Creek) in Charles River (York) County also contained 1,250 acres. This was stated when his namesake and "sonn & heire" repatented it in May 1638. It was noted that 600 acres of this was for his father's venture into the area and another 650 for the adventure by his father of "13 per[sons] the first yeare to sd. Chiskiack." Nugent, Abstracts of Va. Land Patents, pp. 90-91, 93-94.

remained essentially unchanged for the next 127 years under the Digges ownership and management.

The deed from John West to Edward Digges seems not to have been preserved; however, it is cited in a later transfer of the property in 1699 with the notation that it was dated September 11, 1650. To insure his title, as was often the case, Digges obtained a patent some six months later on May 6, 1651. This too cited the earlier deed, but claimed only 1,200 acres rather than the 1,250 in the deed. The deed of 1699 in the main repeats the bounds of the patent which is the earliest description of the property. It follows:²⁹

begining at a Certaine marked tree Standing On a point at ye Mouth & Westward Side of ye Creeke Called Wests Creeke even or nigh Yorke river Course, East & by South four hundred poles to a point on ye Westward Side of Millers Creeke [now Indian Field Creek], and from ye Said Creek south east two hundred & forty poles till it meet With a Creeke Called Morgans Creeke [now believed to be present Bracken's Pond] Dividing the Land from ye land of Francis Morgan Gent and into the maine Woods South West Three hundred & forty poles, And so northwest upon ye land of William Sayer over a Swamp leading along to ye Indian Bridge, Northerly Along West's Creek to ye first Station Where it did begin.³⁰

29. This is from the deed of lease of September 21, 1699, between Edward Digges of Maryland and Dudley Digges of York County. The deed of release followed the next day, September 22, and repeated the bounds but omitted the one that related to Miller's Creek, and hence became the source of some difficulty where it alone has been used. York County Records, Deeds and Bonds, No. 1, (1694-1701), pp. 196-201.

30. In the abstract of the 1651 patent there are some deviations from this description. The point of beginning is given as the "Ewd side of Wests Cr.," rather than the westward; there are no measurements; and William Sayer is given as William Sawyer. These, too, formerly made interpretation a little difficult. Nugent, Abstracts of Va. Land Patents, p. 214.

This gave West a considerable frontage on York River from Felgate Creek to the once tidal inlet now known as Bracken's Pond (then Morgan's Creek), and included much of the "Indian Field" southward from Indian Field (then Miller's) Creek. It is, for example, noted in 1643 that the West holding extended this way.³¹ There are as well several deeds dealing with this same property in 1785 and 1787 that confirm the terminology.³² There is the deed of November 17, 1785, when then-owner William Digges, Jr., put the property in trust for his wife. It was described then much as it had been in 1699, though all creeks are called brooks. It was now 1,250 acres, more or less:

bounded as follows Viz Beginning at a certain marked Tree standing on a point at the Mouth of and Westward side of a Brook called West Brook [Felgate Creek] nigh York River East and by South four hundred Poles to a Point on the Westward side of Millers Brooke [Indian Field Creek] and from the said Brook South East two hundred and forty poles til it meet with a Brook called Morgan's Brook [Bracken's Pond] dividing the Lands from the Lands of Francis Morgan, into the main Woods Southwest three hundred and forty Poles and so North West up to the Land of William Sayer over a swamp leading along the Indian Bridge northerly along West Brook to the first station where it did begin.

When this same property was released back to William Digges, Jr., after proper consideration in June 1787, it was done with a brief

31. On October 19 Joseph Croshawe patented 305 acres "on the S. end of the Indian Field, parallel with his own land until it meets with the land of Capt Jno. West." Nugent, Abstracts of Va. Land Patents, p. 152. "Indian Field," it is assumed, takes its name from the village site occupied by the Chiskiack Indians when the English first knew them, prior to their removal across the York.

32. Deed Book, No. 6, pp. 314, 334, 357, 358. From all of this it seems certain that Morgan's Creek and present Bracken's Pond are the same topographic feature. Through the years the identity of Morgan's Creek has been elusive.

description but one that was more current with adjacent owners. Then it was described as being "bounded by the York River aforesaid Phill gut [a variant of Felgate] Creek by the lands of Lee, Potters Estate by the Lands of the Revd John Bracken and Benjamin Waller." The down-river end boundary was given as "the Revd John Bracken's Lands" in the Digges sale of the estate to William Waller on June 19, 1787.

West came as a leader to Chiskiack, remaining as such for the twenty years he was there and afterwards as well. He had been named to the Council in 1631 and would serve in this capacity for much of the time until his death in 1659, even during the Commonwealth period.³³ He also became a member of the York County court soon after its inception in 1633, being a regular attendee--usually the presiding officer--and hosting the court sessions at his home from time to time as the various justices did.³⁴ He attended court meetings even when serving as governor following the deposition of Governor John Harvey. The note of the "court houlden att the Governors house" on March 18, 1637, most surely referred to his home in Chiskiack. He was then governor as well.³⁵ In 1644 public business was still being transacted

33. Minutes of the Council and General Court, p. 201, Journals of the House of Burgesses of Virginia, 1619-1659, p. 125 and also 82ff. For this there was good remuneration as when on March 24, 1655, it was ordered "that Capt. John West be paid his sallary (vizt) 10,000 lbs. Tobacco Constantly in York River." And in the "Public Levy" of 1653 for Northampton County he had been entered for a similar amount. Journals, pp. 88, 95.

34. Fleet, Va. Colonial Abstracts, XXIV, York Co. (1633-1646), passim.

35. "Notes from the Records of York County," Wm. and Mary Quart., 1st ser., 22, 77.

there from time to time, as when a document was "Dated at Capt. John West's house" and when an order was issued for "writings in a chest in the house of Steven Giles in James Towne" to be delivered to him as "the tymes [were] Dangerous"--too dangerous "to goe over the Forrest alone."³⁶

The Sir John Harvey administration in Virginia grew into a very stormy one due to various differences, particularly to the Governor's favorable attitude toward the tobacco monopoly the King sought, and to his encouragement of Lord Baltimore's intention to establish Maryland ("in northern Virginia"). There was, too, his dictatorial approach in various matters and his stern attempt to discipline some of the colonists for drafting a protest of his actions. This reached even the now-rebellious council members. Affairs came to a crisis in the spring of 1635 and this entry appeared in the Minutes of the Council and General Court: "On 28 apl. 1635 Sr Jno Harvey thrust out of his Govrnt & Capt Jno West acts as Gover till the Kings pleasure known."³⁷

Harvey thus was sent home to England to answer charges laid against him. West, one of his chief opponents, would continue to handle the governor's office for the next eighteen months, until January 18, 1637.³⁸ Samuel Mathews, in a letter of explanation dated

36. Fleet, Va. Colonial Abstracts, XXIV, 80.

37. Page 481.

38. Hornbook of Va. Hist., p. 104. Chiskiack and York were centers of the opposition to Harvey as they would be to Berkeley forty years later. Wm. and Mary Quart., 1st Ser., 15, 37.

May 1635, written from "Newport Newes," described the eviction of Harvey from the governor's seat and added "we were once resolved not to proceed to the election of a New Governor but finding his Majesties commands to the contrary that upon the death or absence of any governor to make a new election. Therefore untill we heare of his Majesties further pleasure we have made choice of Captaine John West an anntient inhabitant who is a very honest gentlemen of a noble family being brother to the Lord Laward sometimes governor of Virginia."³⁹ West took over the duties of the office including the issuance of land patents that were in order.⁴⁰ He wrote the Lords Commissioners for Plantations on March 28, 1636, telling of his selection as governor. He related that "The council with one consent fastened their Voices on him" and it was not a hasty action "before Sir John Harvey was out of the capes." Rather "the action was delayed to the last day and hour of the councils sitting."⁴¹

Perhaps the King had no choice, after such forceful action in Virginia, but to return Harvey for a time as governor. This he did and Harvey again sought to crush his enemies. The Privy Council had

39. "Mutiny in Virginia, 1635," Va. Mag. Hist. Biog., 1, 423-24.

40. This was in his capacity as "the Governor and Capt Generall of Virginia" acting with "the consent of the Councill of State." Nugent, Abstracts of Va. Land Patents, pp. 21ff. and 119.

41. Va. Mag. Hist. Biog., 2, 34-43.

ordered that West and others⁴² be brought to England as prisoners to answer Harvey's charges before the Court of Star Chamber. Except for one, William Peirce already in England, they were arrested and sent over in the spring of 1637. Little of consequence seems to have come of this and West was back in Virginia in due course. He had resumed his seat on the York Court by January 1641 and was sworn in anew as councilor by Governor Berkeley on March 8 of the same year.⁴³

West was a part of his community as well as a public official, being concerned now and then with the administration of estates, including the care of orphans and servants. In December 1640, to illustrate, the court gave him authority over a servant, one William Huddleston, until his master, a Mr. Canhow, should get him "such sufficient apparel of linen and woolen as shall be thought fit by Captain John West Esqr." There was, too, his interest in church affairs as when he represented Chiskiack in a search for a minister for his parish. This was in March 1640. In 1645 it was noted that he had a small indebtedness (1,528 pounds of tobacco) to the estate of Ralph Watson, and in 1643 he sold a small parcel of land to Anthony Wayde. Generally speaking, however, there is no reason to doubt that West enjoyed a secure financial position and lived well for his time. Most

42. Captains John Utie, Samuel Mathews, William Peirce and George Menifee. These were the names of "such men as have proved to be the chiefe heads and Actors in the late faction and Mutenye in Virginia" and included "Captain John West, the Usurper of the Government."

43. Morton, Colonial Virginia, 2, 142-44; Tyler, Encyclopedia of Va. Biog., 1, 45-46; Minutes of the Council and General Court, p. 498; Va. Mag. Hist. Biog., 1, 423.

surely, too, he enjoyed a good plantation home and establishment at the place that came to be called Bellfield.⁴⁴

No documentary evidence has been seen to indicate the precise location or the nature of the plantation home, or mansion, that West developed in Chiskiack on the York. If he built simply when he first came to the area, in all probability his home became much more substantial within a few years. Such would have been required to be commensurate with his position and responsibilities. When he elected to sell his Chiskiack property and move up the York River, he patented 1,550 acres there on May 6, 1651. From his patent it is revealed that his household included himself, his wife Anne, a single child ("John West, Junr"), "a maide Servant" ("Chevy"), five Negroes, and likely other indentured servants among the 18 headrights he claimed.⁴⁵

Most have assumed that the substantial foundations of the early brick mansion--some 47 by 34 feet--found at Bellfield were laid up at the direction of Edward Digges, who for a long time gave his name to the plantation after he purchased it in 1650. There is, however, no specific notation that he did. He could well have bought a going operation and have been interested in it particularly for that reason. It is not known precisely when young Edward actually came into the colony; however, it

44. Minutes of the Council and General Court, pp. 465-66, 494-95; Fleet, Va. Colonial Abstracts, XXIV, York Co. (1633-1646), pp. 62, 79.

45. Nugent, Abstracts of Va. Land Patents, p. 213. He claimed four headrights for himself, indicating three voyages to England and return, as well as two for his wife and one for his son.

was likely not long before he bought the property. He was then only about thirty years old and from all indications was in possession of it rather soon. Brick had become a popular construction material well before Digges appeared on the scene and West would have had the means for it.⁴⁶ His son did later.

But with this sale West was on to new acres up the York, and proceed to open a new plantation at the fork of the York River on the peninsula where the Mattaponi and Pamunkey rivers converge and where West Point, first called Delaware, would rise. As noted in another patent dated July 3, 1652, it was "at the mouth of the Narrowes of Yorke Riv., being a neck of land on the N. side thereof, the necke being made by Yorke Riv. [now Pamunkey] on the S. side thereof . . . Mattaponye on the E." Evidently this looked better than his initial 1,550 acres which he sold prior to January 1656.⁴⁷

Captain West, now Colonel West, would finish out his days at his West Point plantation, dying there in 1659. His son, now about 28 years of age, would carry on. An action of the Virginia House of Burgesses would pay respect to him and give some reward to his son because

46. Perhaps additional archeological exploration of this site may offer some clues.

47. Nugent, Abstracts of Va. Land Patents, p. 258. Actually West continued very active in land acquisition in this newly opening area. There was, besides the patent for 1,550 acres in 1651 for 31 headrights and the 850 for 17 persons in 1652, another 2,150 (3,000 including the 850) in 1653 for 49 adventurers as well as a 1,000-acre tract in 1654 (renewed in 1657). He failed to seat this last thousand acres and his son renewed it in 1662 only to reassign it to another, one Thomas Ramsey. Nugent, Abstracts, pp. 213, 232, 295, 347; Va. Mag. Hist. Biog., 1, 423; Hiden and Jester, Adventurers of Purse and Person, pp. 347-48.

of it. On March 13, 1660, it was enacted that:

Whereas the many important favours and services rendered to the countrey of Virginia by the noble family of the West, predecessors of Mr. John West, their now only survivor, claim at least a greatfull remembrance of their former merriits be still continued to their survivor, It is ordered, That the levies of the said master West and his family be remitted, and that he be exempted from payment thereof during life.⁴⁸

This John West, Jr., born and reared at the Chiskiack home, would also serve his country well and demonstrate too the continuance of the rugged spirit and drive that was his father's. He served in the militia as captain, major, lieutenant-colonel, and then colonel with responsibilities for "Mattaponie Fort." During Bacon's Rebellion he was loyal to Berkeley and sat on the courts-martial that tried the insurgents. In 1680 he was a senior justice of New Kent County, which he also served in the House of Burgesses in various sessions from 1680 to 1691. He died about 1691 and left progeny, three sons and a daughter. Their mother was Unity Croshaw of York County.⁴⁹

48. Journals of the House of Burgesses, 1659-1693, p. 4.

49. Hiden and Jester, Adventurers of Purse and Person, pp. 350-51; Journals of the House of Burgesses, 1659-1693, pp. 69, 84 and passim; Wilcomb E. Washburn, The Governor and the Rebel: A History of Bacon's Rebellion (Chapel Hill, 1957), pp. 87-91. It was in 1684 that Colonel West and Capt. Joseph Foster of New Kent were deemed guilty of violating some of the procedural rules of the House of Burgesses. They had been "sent for several times & delaying to appeare are brought into ye house by ye Sherriffe, & being acquainted with ye order of this House by Mr Speaker, & Admonished to make their submission according to ye said Order, which they Contumaciously and obstinately Refuseing." Thereupon the Sheriff of "James Citty" was directed to "forthwith take them" and commit them "to their chamber to wch they are strictly Confined till further order of the House." After a few days they cooled off and apologized. With their "house arrest" lifted, they resumed their seats in the Assembly. Journals, 1659-1693, pp. 210, 212, 214-15.

CHAPTER 3

Governor Edward Digges

Edward Digges, from a noted and distinguished English family,¹ came to Virginia prior to September 11, 1650, the date on which he purchased the West plantation on the York in the Chiskiack district. He was then a young man of some 30 years, having been born about 1620. He had entered Gray's Inn in 1637 and presumably was now ready to cast his lot in Virginia in which his father, Sir Dudley, had been interested since the early days of the colony. Sir Dudley, who died in 1639, had in fact been a member of the Virginia Company of London and the company minutes indicate that he was quite regular in his attendance at public business.² His interest in the colony remained, and perhaps he would have been pleased to see his fourth son Edward seek and achieve position and influence here.

Edward's rise to leadership was not long in coming. It was in no way impeded by the Cromwellian upheaval in England, nor was it hindered by the restoration of the crown that followed. It was

1. See Appendix IV ("Some Digges Ancestry") with sketches of his father, Dudley, his grandfather, Thomas, and his great-grandfather, Leonard.

2. Elbert Cox, "Bellfield, Ancient Seat of Governor Digges," in Historical Notes (issued by Colonial National Historical Park), 1, No. 2 (March-April, 1932), pp. 4-9.

noted in the journals of the House of Burgesses under date of November 22, 1654, that: "The Governor and Coucill have thought good to call Mr Edward Digges, Esq. to be one of the Councill, if the Assembly shall like thereof, and signifie their approbation and concurrence therein." They did and it was "unanimously consented unto, he haveing given a signal testimony of his fidelity to this collony and Common-Wealth of England."³ Within four months, on March 31, 1655, he was elevated to the governorship. As such he was the second governor selected by the Virginia Assembly, the method of selection followed during the Commonwealth period.⁴ His title as the colony's chief executive was "Governor & Captain General of Virginia."⁵

As the colony's governor, Edward Digges would be busy in the administration of Virginia affairs with much time at the capital town, "James Citty."⁶ There were responsibilities stemming from legislative enactments and judical responsibilities in the General and Quarter court sessions, as well as the more executive functions such as granting land

3. Journals of the House of Burgesses, 1619-1659, p. 94.

4. William G. and Mary N. Stanard, The Colonial Virginia Register (Baltimore, 1956-reissue of 1902 edition), pp. 15, 36; Tyler, Encyclopedia of Va. Biog., 1, 48. As governor he succeeded Richard Bennett and was in turn succeeded by Samuel Mathews.

5. Nugent, Abstracts of Va. Land Patents, p. 321.

6. There was the inclusion in the public levy in December 1656, for example, of a 20,000 pounds of tobacco item "for the accomodation of the Governour and Councill att James Citty during quarter courts and Assemblies." Hening, Virginia Statutes at Large, 1, 421.

within prescribed procedures.⁷ Financially, too, the governor's post was a rather lucrative one. The Assembly had directed "that twenty-five thousand pounds of tobacco per annum be conferred on the Governor . . . towards his maintenance in the said place which is to be yearly levied out of the publique." There were other compensations: "the dutys which shipps were formerly used to pay to the Capt. of the Castell" were "now to be henceforth paid to the Governour of this country, to be by them converted to their maintenance in the government"; the governor enjoyed the fees from "lycenses for marriages, and all other privileges and commodities enjoyed by the precedent Governors." This was all as confirmed in December 1656.⁸

Evidently late in 1656 Edward contemplated a trip to England, though the specific date had not been fixed. Consequently the Assembly was called into session, convening on December 1. That body then "requested" that he "continue his office, and reteine the reines of government in his hands" until his departure.⁹ Actually he left about

7. Among the legislative concerns in this period, as shown in Assembly enactments, were (1) plans for further civilizing the Indians ("by introducing among them the ideas of separate property, &c"), (2) election procedures, (3) the establishment and modification of county and parish boundaries with local court jurisdictions as settlement spread in the colony and the population increased, (4) the improvement of the staple crop, tobacco, (5) the regulation of trade by "establishing Ports and Places for Marketts" with encouragement of merchants, (6) the licensing of taverns and ferry keepers, and (7) the regulation of currency and its values. Also, there were items such as branding runaway slaves, dealing with stray horses and cattle, giving premiums on wolf heads and enforcing the planting of corn. Hening, Virginia Statues at Large, 1, 392-521.

8. Ibid., p. 421.

9. At the same time it delegated Col. Samuel Mathews "Governor elect to take place next him in the council." Another provision was an interesting one as well: "Ordered that Edward Digges, Esq. Gov'r after the expiration of his government do in the Councel take place next unto Coll. John West, Esq." Journals of the House of Burgesses 1619-1959, p. 101; Minutes of the Council and General Court, pp. 503, 505.

mid-March, 1657, sometime after March 4.¹⁰ Though there were probably personal considerations in his journey, it involved as well a good deal of official business as he went out a delegated agent for Virginia. As such he would add his efforts to those of Col. Samuel Mathews (Sr.) and Richard Bennett who also had been operating as colony agents since 1652 and 1655 respectively. Matters at issue involved the boundaries, jurisdictions, and rights in the colony of Maryland (the establishment of which Virginians had been unable to block), alleviation of the restraints the Navigation Act of 1651 had placed on the tobacco trade, and the improvement of trade and merchant relationships in general.

The Assembly had instructed its speaker, Col. Francis Morrison, to write letters to Cromwell and to the English Secretary of State, John Thurlow, through whom access would be sought, to his "highness, the Lord Protector." In the formal message to Cromwell, Digges was given high praise:

May it please your highness,

We could not find a fitter means to represent the condition of this country to your highness, than this worthy person, Mr. Digges, our late governor, whose occasions calling him into England, we have instructed him with the state of this place as he left it; we shall beseech your highness to give credit to his relations, which we assure ourselves will be faithful, having had many experiences of his candor in the time of his government, which he hath managed under your highness, with so much moderation, prudence, and justice.¹¹

10. Ibid., p. 505; R.A. Brock, Virginia and Virginians: 1606-1688 (Richmond, Va., 1888), 1, 24.

11. Journals of the House of Burgesses, 1619-1659, p. 104. Also, included in the Journals (p. 105) was a copy of the letter to Thurlow, both dated December 15, 1656.

In addition to the letters to Cromwell and Thurlow, there were special written "Instructions for the Honorable Edward Digges" himself from the Assembly:¹² "Upon your first arrival, you are desired to make your first address to the right honorable John Thurlow, secretary of state, and after delivery of the country's letters, by this means to get address to his royal highness the lord Protector . . . You are desired to join yourself with our friends Colonel Matthews and Mr. Bennett." He was to give assurances in regard to Maryland¹³ and he was "to treat with the most considerable merchants that use this trade, and to let them know how much this assembly hath endeavoured to lessen the quantity and mend the quality of tobacco; to see what they will do towards it."¹⁴ Digges was further instructed "to give the country an account by the first ships next year."

Digges was, it seems, influential in an agreement that was signed with Lord Baltimore in November 1657 with guarantees for those in Maryland not of his faith, or who had opposed him. His success in other areas is less clear, though he remained on in England for several years.

12. Ibid., p. 105.

13. "You are to assure his highness, that according to his letter we have not interested ourselves in the business betwixt Maryland and have been unconcerned in their quarrel from the beginning until this time, and so shall continue according to his highness's direction in that letter."

14. A note of realism followed this in the instructions: "without the endeavor be reciprocal, we shall hardly mend the commodities without they mend the price, for if we once find that good and bad is all one as in respect to us, we shall certainly make that which is made with most ease."

In fact, he became a member of the British Council for Foreign Plantations (forerunner of the Board of Trade) just after the Restoration during his residence in London. In 1664 he returned to Virginia as auditor-general of the colony.¹⁵

But it was not all public service for Edward Digges. He busied himself in other directions as well, becoming a successful planter and producing an especially fine type of tobacco that brought premium prices. Hugh Jones, writing of Virginia in 1724, described the peninsula between the York and James Rivers as "seeming most nicely adapted for sweet scented, or the finest tobacco."¹⁶ He believed, however, that seed and good management were as much responsible for this as the land itself: "on York River is a small tract of land called Digges's Neck, which is poorer than a great deal of other land in the same latitude, by a particular seed and management, is made the famous crop known by the name of the E Dees remarkable for its mild taste and fine smell."¹⁷ He of course had reference to the Edward Digges Plantation and the "E Dees" product was named for its developer, Edward Digges. This tobacco retained its own identity for at least as long as the Digges family ownership of this plantation. In November 1772, George

15. Lonn, Colonial Agents, pp. 16-19, 272; Wm. and Mary Quart., 2nd Series, 14, 106-08. His continuing whereabouts in the 1660-63 period is difficult to determine.

16. Hugh Jones, The Present State of Virginia, edited by Richard L. Morton (Chapel Hill, N.C., 1956-reissue of 1724 edition), pp. 72-73.

17. Seemingly it was a strain derived from the introduction by John Rolfe of "the pink-flowered, sweet-scented and Orinoco varieties of nicotiana tabacum from the islands of the Caribbean and South America." Jones (Morton), Present State of Va., p. 191 (editor's note).

F. Norton, an English merchant, wrote his family representative and merchant in Yorktown, John Hatley Norton, that "My Father has presented the Treasurer with a Box of Tobacco . . . 'tis of the E.D. kind." In the same family correspondence there was reference to the type again in March 1773, but with some suggestion of deterioration--in the mention of "a dozen Hhds some of them E.D. ordy. and out of Condition."¹⁸ It remained a trade name at least as late as 1811. When the Rev. Scervant Jones, the then-owner, advertised the old Digges plantation for sale he described it as: "1000 acres in York county, the only estate where the famous E.D. tobacco was raised, which never failed to bring in England one shilling on the pound, when other tobacco would not bring three pence."¹⁹

As was the case with most Virginia planters and leaders, Digges had an interest in land and he was not content to have a good, going, home plantation. In 1653 he patented 2,350 acres called "Matapony Fort" in Gloucester County. This was for his transportation of 47 persons to Virginia. But this ten years later would be noted as "by him deserted," likely meaning that he had not the time to "seat" (develop) it, a standing requirement for land grants at this time. In 1653, too, he had taken a patent for another 700 acres, again on the north side of the Mattaponi, this for another 14 headrights. In 1656 there was

18. Frances Norton Mason (ed.), John Norton & Sons, Merchants of London and Virginia . . . Papers . . . 1750 to 1795 (Richmond, 1937), pp. 79, 310.

19. Wm. and Mary Quart., 1st Ser., 15, 38.

reference to his holding on the south side of the James adjacent to 300 acres which Thomas Rolfe had been granted. In 1662 he was noted also as having a holding in New Kent County.²⁰

Digges pioneered in another direction, not with the same success though he made some temporary progress. This was in the encouragement and development of sericulture, long a dream and matter of trial in Virginia, even from the first day of the colony.²¹ Likely he was a sponsor to the Virginia Assembly which in December 1656 declared that "by experience silke will be the most profitable comoditie for the country (if well managed)." It was enacted at this time that all land proprietors be required to plant ten mulberry trees for every 100 acres-- "at twelve foote distance each from other, and secure them by weeding and a sufficient Fence, from cattell, horses, &c," this to be done within two years. There were penalties for failure (ten pounds of tobacco - "halfe to the informer, the other halfe to the countie") for "everie tree that shall be wanting, or untended." This would insure food (mulberry leaves) for the worms.²² Another action of this same Assembly granted 4,000 pounds of tobacco to "George The Armenian for his encouragement in the trade of silk and to stay in the country to follow the same."²³

20. Nugent, Abstracts of Va. Land Patents, pp. 236, 243, 328, 469, 555.

21. Charles E. Hatch, Jr., "Mulberry Trees and Silkworms; Sericulture in Early Virginia" in Va. Mag. Hist. Biog., 65, 3-61.

22. Hening, Virginia Statutes at Large, 1, 420.

23. Ibid., p. 425. Evidently George stayed, at least for a time, for in September 1663 he claimed a bounty for "having proved the making of ten pounds of wound silk." Hening, Statutes, 2, 199.

Perhaps George was one of the Armenians whom Edward Digges had brought into Virginia.²⁴ Digges, however, would not have been on hand to push the matter when the Assembly of March, 1658, now offered bounties on silk production itself (as well as on other commodities then being encouraged). The first person producing one hundred pounds of wound silk in a year would get 5,000 pounds of tobacco and anyone producing silk to the value of two hundred pounds sterling would receive 10,000 pounds of Virginia tobacco. But success was elusive and in March, 1659, the reward was made even more attractive--10,000 pounds of tobacco to the first person producing 50 pounds of wound silk in a year.²⁵

Seemingly Digges was early interested in silk production for he wrote, even in June 1654, to John Ferrar in Huntingtongshire about the "many and severall Letters, printed papers and Queries" which he had received from Farrar. He was "confident I have conquered all the greatly feared difficulty of this rich commodity, and made its sweet easy and speedy Profitt so evident to all Virginians." He saw it as of great benefit to England as well as Virginia and he hoped for "the comfort and joy, in setting up so noble; so beneficiall, a stable vendible commodity."

In the spring of 1654 he had been hampered by an inadequate number of mulberries near his "present Plantation"; consequently he had produced only 400 pounds of "Silk-bottomes" (cocoons) to wind. In addition,

24. Wm. and Mary Quart., 1st Ser., 15, 37-38; Tyler, Encyclopedia of Va. Biog., 1, 48; Jones (Morton), Present State of Va., p. 217. Digges also corresponded with enthusiasts in England, particularly Virginia Ferrar, daughter of John Ferrar who had been made deputy treasurer of the London Company in 1619.

25. Hening, Virginia Statutes at Large, 1, 470, 487, 521.

however, he made ten pounds of "seed" (worm eggs) which he planned to distribute "to diverse Planters" whom he hoped to show that it would "not at all hinder their too much beloved Tobacco, but that they may proceed with both together." In this way they could join him among the "Silk-masters."²⁶ Likely it was about this time that Digges at his "very great charge" "sent for two Armenians out of Turkey skillful men" to manage his silk effort. Digges was a leader in the business if we can accept the following bit of verse by John Ferrar, Jr.:

But noble Diggs carries the Bell away
(Lass! want of eggs made so small essay.)
His two Armenians from Turkey sent
Are now most busy on his brave attempt
And had he stock sufficient for next yeare
Ten thousand pound of Silk would then appeare
And to the skies his worthy deeds upreare.²⁷

Undoubtedly it was with some pleasure that Digges was able to present some Virginia silk to Charles II, just after the Restoration, even though it was not of his production but rather that of Col. Thomas Pettus of James City County. Digges' correspondent wrote him in March 1660: "I have att last obtain'd a Dispatch of his Majesties gracious and kind acknowledgement of the Satisfaction he receaved in the present of Silke made to his Majestie by your hands from Collonll pettus."²⁸

26. Samuel Hartlib, Reformed Virginia Silk-Worm; or a Rare and New Discovery of a Speedy Way and Easie Means Found Out by a Young Lady in England . . . For Feeding of Silk-Worm in the Woods (London, 1655) in Peter Force, Tracts and Other Papers (Washington, 1838-46), Vol. 3, Tract No. 13, pp. 27-28.

27. Hartlib, Reformed Virginia Silk-Worm, pp. 34-35. There is data, too, on Digges' experimental efforts.

28. See Hatch, "Sericulture in Virginia," Va. Mag. Hist. Biog., 65, 55.

Even after Digges returned to Virginia, he continued his pursuit of sericulture. He then resumed a leadership in the enterprise that brought reward from the Virginia Assembly in Septmeber 1671. The reward was "one hundred pounds Sterl" for being "The author and promoter of a hopeful advantagious designe of makeing silk." Also it was pointed out that he "hath rendred other important Services to the Country."²⁹ The year before, Governor Sir William Berkeley, a promoter of silk culture himself, had commended Digges to the home authorities for showing Virginians "the way of winding silk." It is of interest that a ball of silk thread which he produced still exists.³⁰

Very assuredly Digges was proud of his sericulture ventures, as his wife Elizabeth saw fit to incorporate a pointed reference to them on his grave memorial (though she erred in making it too exclusive).³¹ His inscription reads in part: "A gentlemen of most commendable parts and Ingenuity, the only introducer and promoter of the SILK Manufacture in the Colonie, And in everything else a pattern worthy of all Pious imitation."³²

29. Journals of the House of Burgesses, 1659-1693, p. 57.

30. Hatch, "Sericulture in Virginia", Va. Mag. Hist. Biog., 65, 55; Jones (Morton), Present State of Va., p. 217. It is preserved in the Virginia Historical Society collection and it is said to have been produced on Digges' Denbigh acres on James River in Warwick County.

31. Among others equally as interested in the endeavor, perhaps, were Col. George Ludlow on the York, George Lobb in Isle of Wright, Mary Ward and Dr. Richard Russell in the Norfolk area, William Wright and Thomas Burbage in Nansemond, Sir Henry Chicheley in Middlesex, and Col. Thomas Pettus in James City County.

32. See Appendix I and Hatch, "Sericulture in Virginia", Va. Mag. Hist. Biog., 65, 52.

Edward Digges in his last years continued on the Virginia Council and some time prior to 1670 was named the colony's resident auditor-general. This was a post normally reserved for "one of the Councell," one who had also "beene long resident in the Country." It was noted that he was "a person every way fittly qualified for it." Colonel Digges retained this post until his death as he did that of "receiver of the quit rents" to which he was named early in 1672.³³

In his last years, too, perhaps there was more time for Digges to enjoy his agricultural pursuits and his family at his home on the York "called by the name of Edward Digges Esqrs Plantacon."³⁴ He and his wife Elizabeth (assumed to have been born Elizabeth Page, a sister of Col. John Page) had a fruitful marriage. According to his grave stone, there were 13 children (six sons and seven daughters), though only three would be living when their mother died in 1691.

When Edward made his will on August 25, 1669, he was in England, but the language "Now bound upon a Voyage for Virginia" indicated plans for immediate return to the colony and to his home. At the time there were eight living children. He died on March 15, 1675, and his will was proved three months later. It is evident that he left a good estate. His "wife Elizabeth Digges [he made] my sole Exectrix and doe give her 1200f, and all the rest of my estate except the following legacies. To all my children, being four boys and four girls, 250f each, the profits

33. Va. Mag. Hist. Biog., 19, 362-63; Alexander W. Weddell (editor), Virginia Historical Portraiture, 1585-1830 (Richmond, 1930), p. 95; Stanard, Colonial Va. Register, pp. 22, 23, 36.

34. York County Records, Deeds and Bonds, No. 1, p. 196.

of 2/3 of my plantation till my eldest son is 24." Seemingly his was a young family and he named "Guardians and executors, in case of my wife's death."³⁵

Elizabeth survived her husband's death some sixteen years, until 1691. Though the York River estate would pass to Edward's oldest surviving son, William, from all indications the widow Elizabeth would continue to live at the home place in Chiskiack.³⁶ An inventory made as a basis for property division after her death yields at least a partial glimpse of the home and kind of living to which Edward and his family were accustomed.

On November 24, 1691, Capt. Francis Page filed a request with the York County Court that Elizabeth's estate be divided. Francis had married Mary, a daughter of Elizabeth and Edward, and though Mary was now deceased, she and Francis had a surviving daughter, Elizabeth (a grand-daughter of Elizabeth and Edward), who was entitled to her mother's share.³⁷ Actually the groundwork was already laid: neighbors Thomas Barber, Thomas Ballard, and Charles Hansford had been named by the court on the previous September

35. Va. Mag. Hist. Biog., 14, 305. His will filed in Virginia seems not to have survived; however, the copy filed in England some ten years after his death is known as given in the source above. His guardians and executors in the event of his wife's death were named as Sir William Houell, Col. William Willis, Mr. John Jefferies, and "my cozen Dudley Digges."

36. Minutes of the Council and General Court, p. 410.

37. It was recorded that Francis Page, in behalf of his daughter Elizabeth Page, filed "as legally representing her deceased mother, Mary, ye daughter of the said Mrs Elizabeth Digges, petitioned ye Court for a division of Mrs Digges estate." Quoted in Wm. and Mary Quart., 1st Ser., 1, 208.

24th, and on October 13th they did "meet at ye house of Mrs Eliz: Digges late deceased and did Inventory & appraise ye deceased's Estate yt was presented before us by ye Adrs of ye said Estate to ye best of our Judgmtts being first sworn before Mr. Robert Read." The administrators of the estate were William and Dudley Digges, both sons of Edward and Elizabeth.³⁸ The property division followed rather quickly, being dated December 11, 1691, and was attested to by Joseph Ring, Thomas Barber, and Martin Gardner.³⁹ There were four shares for the "goods & Chattels of the Estate of ye Deceased Mrs Elizabeth Digges," and the beneficiaries were her three surviving sons (William, Dudley, and Edward) and "Capt Page," in trust for his daughter.

It is in the inventory that the nature of some of the Edward Digges' farm operations becomes clear. His estate seems to have been divided operationally into three parts, or quarters. The "Home Quarter" likely was managed in close association with the "Manner [manor] Plantation" where the "Manner House" stood. The other two were "Indian Feild Quarter" and "New ground Quarter." The former faced on the York southward across Indian Field Creek from the "Home Quarter," while the latter would have been inland, without river frontage.

The "Home Quarter" and "Manner Plantation" were operated with 18 Negro slaves (two of them children and one listed as "Kate Indian") and stocked with 38 "Horses, Mares, Coultts"⁴⁰ and 60 "head of cattle" including 11

38. Appendix II A is a copy of the inventory which was put to record on August 24, 1692.

39. It was not made of record for almost two years. This document constitutes Appendix II B of this report.

40. It is not clear whether this included the five "broak Horses" (a horse called Mance, a mare named Jewell, a horse known as Robin, and an unnamed mare and colt) and the "Gray Mare" listed separately.

calves.⁴¹ At "Indian Feild Quarter" there were 12 Negroes and a child and 19 "head of Cattle & Calves," while at "New ground Quarter" there were but 5 Negroes. Cattle here numbered 23 (12 cows, 3 steers, 1 bull and 7 calves). The only crops mentioned in the inventory, typical for the time, were tobacco and "Indian Corne."

The enumeration of the rooms in the manor house together with the listing of the contents in each show it to have been a sizeable and rather well-appointed home indicating a good standard of living when measured by the life of that time.

1. "ye Hall parlor"

This was a principal room in the house having a clock, an "Imbrodred Couch," 5 "Spannish tables," 2 chests, 5 pictures, 20 chairs (11 of "Arrow worke," 9 of "turkey worke") and 4 carpets (2 "Green" and 2 of "turkey worke"). This almost reads as if there had been a grouping here for inventory purposes.

2. "ye Yellow Roome"

This room had a chest of drawers, several carpets, 7 chairs, 2 boxes, and some bedding. Evidently there were two beds and one may have given the room its name: "1 Cloath bed with Curtaines & vallance lined with yellow silke a silke Counterpain teaster & head peice & one Callico quilt," all valued at £12.

3. "the large Roome against ye yellow Roome"

Here there were another "fetherbed" and "bedstead" with appointments, a "looking glass," a chair, 2 trunks, and "three window Curtaines."

41. The bull and cow said to be at the "Manner House" may not be included in this total.

4. "ye Back Roome agt ye large Roome"

The contents of this room were varied, again almost as if they had been grouped for inventory. There were 251 ounces of silver "plate," books,⁴² medicines⁴³ and scales, 2 cases of knives, jewelry,⁴⁴ combs and needles, glass and ceramic wares, 2 trunks, a table, and several boxes. Seemingly, too, there were a bed and its fittings and "3 Iron Curtaine Rods" and "3 old Callico Curtaines."

5. "ye Red Roome"

This likely was a small room with its bed, two chairs, "Iron doggs" and "one window curtaine."

6. "the Back Roome"

At the time of inventory here evidently there were two beds and their equipment, fireplace fittings, a chest of drawers, 5 chairs and 2 tables plus a goodly amount of sheets, "pillow bears," towels, napkins, and table cloths.

7. "ye Hall"

The inventory mentions simply "In A Chest in ye Hall" and then enumerates a total of 215 pounds of pewter,⁴⁵ a "Side Saddle and Cover," a good deal of kitchen equipment,⁴⁶ plus tin pans, copper pots and such.

42. A parcel of "ould small Bookes," "One large Bible," 3 other "old large bookes."

43. "Gallipotts, bottles & phissick."

44. Eight "gould mourning Rings," 1 "Diamond Ring," a small "stone Ring" and "sea pearls."

45. This was aside from 2-1/2 dozen pewter plates and another parcel of "old pewter."

46. "Wooden trenchers," sifters, strainers, a "Rouling pin," etc.

8. "ye low passage"

There was a chest here, evidently a rather large one. "In A Chest in ye low passage" there were some 132 napkins, 16 table cloths, three pairs of sheets, 10 towells, and cloth of some quantity and of various types.

9. "the Garrett"

Evidently this was largely a place of storage for chests (eight of them), boxes (2), trunks (7, and 5 of them with locks and keys), and a canvas bag. A number were noted as being "ould" as was the case of many of the miscellaneous items.⁴⁷

10. "the Sellar"

Seemingly the cellar was little used, or stocked, at the time of inventory as it contained only 12 dozen quart-size glass bottles, a half dozen "Earthen potts," a stone mortar and wooden pestle, and "a parcell of old Lumber."

11. "the Kitching"

This was a matter of coppers, pots (brass and iron), spits, skillets, kettles, pans, hooks and racks and such, though there were such items as a still, a grindstone, and a chest.

All of this seems to suggest a home of six rooms plus a hall and a passageway, together with an attic and a cellar. This assumes that the kitchen was not in the main structure though the contents of the chest in "ye Hall" may suggest a proximity to it. None of the descriptive words

47. Small pictures, cushions, curtains (8 of them), a mortar and pestle, wooden platters, etc.

and phrases in any way indicates a second floor for the house, though the possibility of one can not be ruled out.

This, then, was the nature of the brick home at Chiskiack which Edward Digges either built himself at mid-century on arrival in Virginia, or which more likely he purchased already fashioned by John West. Evidently it provided comfortable living for the family, though life for those out in the plantation quarters, away from the manor house, would have been austere indeed. Furnishings here were largely a matter of an iron pot or two, racks and hooks, and pestles and sifters.⁴⁸

Elizabeth saw to it that her husband was buried in the family plot near what had been their manor house. The tomb "Memorial" which she dedicated to him out of "her conjugall affection" still exists though it is now faded and difficult to read. Though there is no marking, Elizabeth herself was probably buried here as well as those of the children who did not survive them. Others of the family would join them here, perhaps a greater number than indicated by the three additional tombs whose raised stones with inscriptions are still in place.⁴⁹

48. Though it did not involve living, it may be well to note that the "Home Quarter" did have a pair of "Small Hand Millstones," "3 plasterers Trowells" and a parcel of hinges.

49. Inscriptions from the tombs, including that of Edward Digges, constitute Appendix I of this report. During tomb restoration in 1966 the below-ground brickwork of at least one additional grave was seen parallel to, on the inland side of, the tomb of Cole Digges.

CHAPTER 4

William, Edward, Dudley, and Cole

With the passing of Elizabeth in 1691, the "Edward Digges Esqr plantation" descended to the oldest surviving son of Edward and Elizabeth. This was William, now well established, married, and settled in the colony of Maryland. There is no indication that he returned to the family home place. He had, however, left some record in York County. He was a county justice in 1671 and three years later captain of the militia horse. In 1674, too, he sat in the House of Burgesses.¹

When Bacon's Rebellion came he was a staunch supporter of Governor Berkeley and suffered some in consequence. It was reported that:

Capt Wm. Diggs, sonne to Mr. Edward Diggs, deceased, a Gallant [gallant], brisk young Gentlemen, who in a single dispute betwixt him and Hansford, one of the cheifest champions of the Rebels side, cut off one of Hansfords fingers, and forced him to fly, and maintained the Governors cause against the Rebels, with great constancy till he was forced to fly to Maryland, whose mother suffered considerably in her sonnes Loyalty.²

William evidently returned to Virginia and likely gave a hand in the repair and renovation of his, and his mother's, estate. He was the York

1. "The Pedigree of a Representative Virginia Family", Wm. and Mary Quart., 1st Ser., 1, 141-42, 211; Tyler, Encyclopedia of Va. Biog., 1, 223.

2. "Persons who Suffered by Bacon's Rebellion: The Commissioner's Report," Va. Mag. Hist. Biog., 5, 68.

County sheriff in 1679 and is believed to have departed for residence in Maryland shortly afterwards, possibly taking with him then twelve slaves, no doubt a part of his inheritance. He ultimately bequeathed these to his wife along with the "Negro woman Called Mary." Perhaps his removal to Maryland was the result of associations he had formed during his withdrawal there from the Bacon Rebellion, or of his marriage to a Maryland lady, or both.

William married Elizabeth Sewell, the daughter of Henry Seawell of Patuxent, Maryland, the stepdaughter of Charles Calvert, the third Lord Baltimore and the fourth Lord Proprietor of the Colony. It was her second marriage. In Maryland he became a member of the council and also carried the title of colonel. For an interval he served as deputy-governor, acting in the absence of Baltimore himself.³ And there was, too, a large family.

His will drawn in September 1694 (proved on May 24 after his death earlier in 1698) mentions four daughters and six sons.⁴ His bequests indicate that he had done quite well financially in Maryland, where he continued the custom of tying the Digges name to the land. He left "Diggs Plantation," where he was living, plus "Diggs Addition," a 200 acre grant to him from Lord Baltimore, to his son Charles after the death of his mother, who received a life interest.⁵

3. "Pedigree," Wm and Mary Quart., 1st Ser., 1, 153; Cox, "Bellfield," p. 6.

4. Jane, Elizabeth, Ann, and Mary and Edward, Charles, Dudley, John, Nicholas, and William.

5. These were in Charles County as was the thousand acre place, "Eliz: Delight," bequeathed to son Nicholas. There was, too, "Baltimore's Guift" in St. Marys and another thousand acre tract in Baltimore County. For his will see Appendix II C.

It was his wish that "my plantacon in Yorke River in [the] Collony of Virginia with ye Mill and hands thereon" be "managed and made use of" by his executors "towards the advancemt & preferment" of "my Daughters or such of them as Shall live to be marryed or come to ye age" of, presumably, 21. Evidently there would be income accruing from the tobacco and corn crops, from the grist mill, and from "ye meat produced thereon." Ultimately the plantation would go to his son Edward with the hands and stock then in hand to be equally divided between his sons then living. His wife and son Edward were nominated and appointed his executors. Perhaps Edward assumed the principal role in the management of this estate. In any case it was an arrangement of relatively short duration after William's death. William's will was probated in May 1698 and something more than a year later Edward came into ownership of the place and disposed of it to his uncle.⁶

At the time that William's will was probated, an inventory was made. The latter listed the slaves and stock then on the place. There were eleven Negroes including several children. Cattle (including cows, calves, heifers, steers, and bulls) totaled 36 plus another 10 "Out Lying." The only additional items listed were two horses—one mare, and "1 old Copper."⁷ This does not suggest a very extensive operation. Perhaps there had been some retrogression after Elizabeth's death in 1691 and before the purchase of the property by Dudley in 1699.

6. Ibid.

7. See Appendix II D.

William's older son Edward inherited the old Digges Plantation, but apparently he was already an established Marylander⁸ and after his father's death elected to sell the 1,250 acres and its development to his uncle and father's brother, Dudley. This was by deed dated September 22, 1699, and was for the consideration of 420 English pounds. This may have been a part of a larger financial arrangement between Edward and Dudley, since at the same time the deed was committed to record, Edward also made it of record that he was "firmly bound unto" Col. Dudley Digges in the sizeable amount of £840.⁹

The deed of sale described the seller as "Edward Digges of ye Province of Maryland gent" and the purchaser as "Colo Dudley Digges of Yorke County." It recited that the plantation on the York River had been bought by Edward's grandfather Edward from Capt. John West in September 1650 and that his grandfather had repatented it eight months later. It further recited that Edward had willed it to William and he in turn to him.¹⁰

8. "About 1851, it was learned in Virginia that the English heirs of Sir Dudley Digges were extinct, and the effort was made by the descendants of Gov. Edward Digges residing in Virginia to obtain possession of Chilham Castle and its estates. The Maryland Digges, descendants of Col. William Digges, Gov. Edward Digge's eldest son, have, however, the prior title under the law of entail." "Pedigree", Wm. and Mary Quart., 1st Ser., 1, 153.

9. Deeds and Bonds, No. 1, p. 202.

10. Ibid., pp. 196ff. The deed of lease was dated September 21 and the deed of release (consummation of the sale) the next day. As previously noted and described, it was in these instruments that the bounds of the plantation were given, evidently the earliest such full description now of record.

Presumably this purchase by Dudley, or another not now of record, also transferred title to the "Water Grist Mill" which became "commonly called and known by the name of Digges's Mill."¹¹ It was a mill likely built, or purchased, by Governor Edward. Its mention in William's will was specific and there seems little reasons for him to have purchased or built it himself. This was, it appears, adjacent to but not an integral part of the plantation acreage and included two acres around it. Mills such as this were always a financial asset as well as a plantation convenience in grinding meal from corn, a staple grain and food in the plantation economy.

Dudley Digges was a younger son of Governor Edward and Elizabeth. Born about 1665, he would have been only ten when his father died and about 26 when he shared in the division of his mother's estate in 1691. Likely he spent all of his early years on the Edward Digges Plantation. Perhaps he was a strong arm to his mother in the operation of the plantation after William moved to Maryland. At her death he received his fourth of her estate which included six Negroes (one a child), 26 head of cattle, a quarter of her horses and mares, and his share of the furnishings and personal property of the home (all adding to a little more than £168). And he would marry well.

11. It was so designated when it was sold by William Digges in June 1787. Deed Book, No. 6, p. 360. In the deed between Edward and Dudley in 1699 there is notation of "Waters, Watermill, Water Courses" in the standard phraseology then current; however, it would have been the normal procedure to mention the mill more specifically if this deed included it.

Dudley married Susannah Cole, daughter of Col. William Cole of Warwick County. William Cole, a strong supporter of Governor William Berkeley, had been named to the Council in March 1675 and went on to become the Secretary of State for the Colony. In April 1692, he petitioned to be relieved from this office as "he was lately much decayed in body" and "a deep melancholy had seized him." He died two years later in his fifty-sixth year. Susannah was his daughter by the first of his three wives, being born about 1674.¹² It was through Susannah that he acquired the Cole Plantation¹³ which descended to their son Cole Digges.¹⁴

Perhaps with his father-in-law's death he went to manage the Warwick plantation, though this is largely supposition. He did represent Warwick in the House of Burgesses in the years 1695-97. The next year he became a councilor. His influence continued and in 1705 he was named the colony's auditor and surveyor-general, posts that he held until his death on January 18, 1711.¹⁵

12. She died in 1708 at the age of 34.

13. This estate originally contained 1,350 acres and was on the Warwick River. It belonged to Samuel Stephens and passed to Frances Culpeper, who married him and went on to marry Governor Berkeley later. She and Berkeley had sold it to William Cole in 1671.

14. "Cole Family," Wm. and Mary Quart., 1st Ser., 5, 177; "Pedigree," Wm. and Mary Quart., 1st Ser. 1, 142-44; Va. Mag. Hist. Biog., 7, 401.

15. Va. Mag. Hist. Biog., 7, 401, and 17, 35; Stanard, Col. Va. Register, pp. 43, 91; Journals of the House of Burgesses, 1695-1702, pp. 5 and passim. Though his tombstone and will carry the date 1710, actually it was, when converted to the present calendar, 1711. Until the calendar change in 1735 the new year technically began on March 25 (the Feast of Our Lady), though the use of January 1 had become common, too. Dates between January 1 and March 25 were often noted in both years. Thus January 18, 1711, could be January 18, 1710 (as in this instance), or January 18, 1710/11. See the date sequence in Orders, Wills, No. 14, pp. 1-125.

It is not clear when he returned to the Edward Digges Plantation. Perhaps it was even before its purchase from Edward in 1699, for the deed did recite that he was then "Colo Dudley Digges of Yorke County." Perhaps there had been informal occupancy before the sale. When a "Quite Rent Roll of all the Land in York County" was compiled in 1705 he was among the larger land holders, though his acreage was just a hundred more than the total for the home plantation.¹⁶

Though only 45, he could have sensed that death was near when he made his will on January 13, 1711: he died five days later, leaving four children, all of whom were minors except one son, Cole. There was provisions that each of those under age (Edward, Dudley, and Elizabeth) should receive "the Sum of two thousand Pounds Sterl" at the age of 21, except that Elizabeths' inheritance was to be paid "at the age of twenty one or day of marryage."

All the Rest of my Estate both reall & Personall Consisting of Debts myny Land Negroes furniture lying in England or Elsewhere I do give to my Son Cole Digges & his heirs forever & my desire is the Legacies given remain in the hands of my son Cole Digges & my Son Cole Digges not to give Security to the Court.

Cole was made "the Sole" executor and administrator of his will.¹⁷ He was, however, barely of legal age when the will was admitted to record in March 1711.

16. Va. Mag. Hist. Biog., 31, 70-75. In the listing of 205 persons, his was the seventh largest holding, the largest being 2,750, that of Daniel Parke.

17. See Appendix II E.

Dudley was laid to rest in the burial ground of the plantation adjacent to his wife Susannah, who preceded him there by several years. His grave memorial reads in part: "He was a man very eminent for virtue and wisdom, who was first raised to the dignity of Councilor and then Auditor of this Colony. He died, lamented by all."¹⁸

Presumably Cole Digges immediately assumed the management of the Edward Digges Plantation at his father's death. He already knew the place well, as he could very well have been born and spent his first years here. Being only about ten years old he must have settled here, too, with his father when the latter bought the place. Cole in due course would be buried here close to his father and mother, though he would elect to spend a good bit of time in Yorktown, where he would establish himself as a merchant. He would also be involved in Warwick where he inherited the Cole plantation, "Denbigh," and in Elizabeth City. He would serve in the militia as lieutenant and as commander-in-chief in the three countries of Elizabeth City, Warwick, and York, being denoted colonel.¹⁹ Public service and responsibility was already a family tradition with the Diggeses, and Cole ably carried on this tradition.

Cole was in the House of Burgesses representing Warwick County in 1715 and again in 1718.²⁰ In 1719 he was named to the prestigious Virginia

18. See Appendix I C.

19. Jones (Morton), Present State of Va., p. 239 (note).

20. His first election was deemed an improper one and a new one was called. It seems that he and his fellow candiate, William Cole, had promised to serve without salary. This was considered a form of bribery, a conflict-of-interest matter. During the second election campaign, both men were more careful with their promises and this time were properly elected. McIlwaine, Journals of the House of Burgesses of Virginia, 1712-1726, pp. xxxiii, 128, 141.

Council, the third generation of the family to serve in this body. He would remain a councilor for almost a quarter-century, in due course becoming its senior member and president in a position of authority next to the governor. He was long a patron, too, of the College of William and Mary, being named even as a young man, in 1716, "a visitor and Governor of the Colledge." A strong loyalty to the college remained in the next several generations of the family as a number of the Digges boys and young men enrolled here for their education and most perhaps performed satisfactorily.²¹

Cole Digges quite early turned toward the mercantile where his major interest seemed to be. In 1714 he brought Lot 42 in Yorktown together with the house that Thomas Pate had earlier built here.²² In the same purchase he also bought a warehouse at the waterside, properties well situated for trade. In his deed with John Martin, from whom he made the purchase, he designated himself as "Merchant." Evidently he was soon in residence here though he seemingly lived too, at times, in Warwick and on the York plantation. He would, however, not give these places the same close direct supervision that his father-in-law and father had given them. A prominent public official, he also came to purchase living accom-

21. Though one, along with another York County lad, would be expelled for "remarkable Idleness & bad Behaviour in general, but particularly for whipping ye little Boys in ye Grammar School - for Obstinacy & Disrespect to ye Grammer Master, & refusing to answer before ye President & Masters ye complaints made agt ym." This was Cole's grandson, Cole, a son of Edward. Wm and Mary Quart., 1st Series, 2, 256.

22. Orders, Wills, No. 14, p. 297; Charles E. Hatch, Jr., The Thomas Pate House and Lot 42 in Yorktown (a research report, Division of History, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation, National Park Service, dated October 1969), pp. 6-13. This report deals in some detail with Cole Digges in Yorktown and the nature of his contribution to the Virginia scene.

modations in Williamsburg where he was often on colony business.

From all indications Cole prospered in his plantation operations and particularly in the mercantile area. In 1729 he added other business property in Yorktown.²³ This was in the form of a lease of an "eighty foot square of the Beach below the bank at York Town adjoining to the place where his warehouse now stands for his convenience in building a commodious warehouse thereon with leave to extend a Wharf of the same breadth into the River for the more convenient landing of merchandises." There is little doubt that he was a businessman of comparable stance with many of his associates in the York trade--Thomas Nelson, Philip Lightfoot, John Ballard, Abraham Archer, and others.

Cole Digges was also a family man, having married Elizabeth Power of York County, the daughter of Dr. Henry Power. From this union came two daughters (Mary and Susannah) and three sons (Edward, William and Dudley). The oldest son, Edward, would be installed at, and would inherit, the old Digges family estate, the fourth in line to be established here. Edward began to develop early as a responsible, public service-oriented, young man. He became a justice in York County in 1734, and a militia officer. In 1736 he began a 16-year sojourn in the House of Burgesses. His brothers, too, when of age would make their significant

23. Executive Journals of the Council of Colonial Virginia, edited by H.R. McIlwaine, 4 (Richmond, Va., 1930), 207-08.

contributions. William would sit for twenty years in the House and Dudley would go on to become a leading patriot in the revolutionary cause in Virginia.²⁴

In August 1739 Edward Digges, now Colonel Edward, married Anne Harrison, "a Daughter of the late Honourable Nathaniel Harrison, Esq., deceas'd, who was one of his Majesty's Council, and Auditor, of this Colony." Anne was noted in the press announcement as "an agreeable young Lady of Merit, and Fortune." It was just two weeks after this marriage that there was another alliance of the Digges and Harrison families. Harrison's son, Major Benjamin, married Cole's daughter and Edward's sister, Susannah Digges. Like her sister-in-law she too was noted as "a very agreeable, deserving young Lady, with a Handsome Fortune."²⁵

Cole Digges died in 1744 and in due course his son Edward erected a memorial tablet over his grave "to ye Memory of a most indulgent Father." It recited that "The Hon. Colonel Digges Esqr who having been many Years one of his Majestys Hon. Council for this Colony & sometime President of ye same" was a man "Enjoying Life yet mindful of its end . . . [who] Derived Dignity on evry Scene Or tempted or betrayed to Nothing mean."²⁶

24. Tyler, Encyclopedia of Va. Biog., 1, 223; "Pedigree of a Representative Virginia Family," Wm. and Mary Quart.; 1st Ser., 1, 144-45, 211; Hatch, Thomas Pate House and Lot 42, pp. 10-12; Charles E. Hatch, Jr., Dependencies (Outbuildings) of the Dudley Digges House in Yorktown (a research report, Division of History, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation, National Park Service, dated April 1969), pp. 5-9.

25. The Williamsburg Virginia Gazette issue of August 10 and 24; Hatch, Thomas Pate House and Lot 42, p. 11.

26. See Appendix I E. Mary Digges also married a Harrison, Col Nathaniel Harrison of Brandon in Prince George County. Va. Mag. Hist. Biog., 6, 234-35.

CHAPTER 5

Another Edward Digges and A Final William

Though his will has not been seen, if he left one of record, it is clear that Cole Digges provided well for his sons. The younger son, Dudley, inherited Yorktown and Williamsburg town properties, though he would not follow the mercantile line. In Yorktown this involved four lots plus waterfront development. Son William, when of age as in the case of Dudley, would receive the Warwick County plantation. The old home place, the "E.D. Plantation" on the York, had already passed to Edward. Actually Edward could very well have taken up residence here at the time of his marriage in 1739.

In 1746 (even though he was the oldest son) Edward seemingly felt insecure in his ownership of the Digges home and plantation above Yorktown. He sought court action and depositions to establish his father's intent. The depositions were then "Recorded to perpetuate the Plts [his, the plaintiff's] Title to the Slaves and Personal Estate" as well as the land.¹ Actually this was a friendly suit against his brothers (William and Dudley, who were not yet 21 years of age) through their guardian Thomas Nelson, Esq.

1. Wills and Inventories, No. 19, pp. 492-93.

The deposition from John Robinson recited that he was:

very intimate with the Honble Cole Digges Esqr later father of the Parties to this Suit [and] hath in divers Conversations with the said Cole Digges in his life time heard him Declare that he had put his Son Edward Digges the now Plt in Possession of his Dwelling House and Estate in the County of York and had also given him the Slaves, Stocks of Cattle, Household Furniture and other Personal Estate thereto belonging And that at the time of making such Declaration the said Edward Digges the Plt was in Possession of the said Estate and this Deponent verily believed it was his intention that his son Edward should enjoy the same without any Molestation tho he had never Convey'd it to him in Writing or bequeathed it to him by his will.

John Power of New Kent in his deposition reiterated most of what Robinson said. He further noted that he, too, believed that it was Cole's intention and will that his son Edward should have "the Plantation whereon the said Plt now lives and the Plantation in the Neck in the county of York commonly called the E.D. Plantations." He knew that Edward had "lived upon the Plantation where he now resides in the Lifetime of his said father." He reiterated further that he "understood and believed That the said Cole Digges in his Lifetime did give the Plt all the said Plantations with the Slaves Stocks and Personal Estate thereto belonging and thereon being."

The third deposition was from Cole's wife, and Edward's mother, Elizabeth Digges.² She, too, was of the same opinion and was quite willing to be of record. She indicated, however, that the lack of a deed, or will, reference was not an oversight on Cole's part. She re-

lated in February 1746:

That about four Years ago in a Conversation with her late husband Cole Digges, Esqr decd she told him she thought her Son Edward the Plt expected he would make him a Deed for the Houses and Lands whereon he lived in York County and the Plantations thereunto belonging to which he reply'd That he did not know what she the Deponent might think of Deeds but that he looked upon himself to have no more Right to that Estate or any thing there than he had to Colo Lightfoots or Mr Nelsons Estate.

These depositions evidently were sufficient to insure quiet possessions of the E.D. Plantation by Edward, who lived on here until his death. It then descended to his own son, William Digges, Jr.

Edward would enjoy the plantation for more than thirty years in addition to the early years that he may have spent here. It would be interesting to know, though the record seems silent, if he knew and lived in both of the Digges homes here. This, to the writer, appears a likely possibility.

Partial archeological reconnaissance in 1934-1935³ has clearly established that the earliest substantial home known to have been here was that possibly built by Governor Edward Digges, but more likely by his predecessor on the land, Col. John West. This mid-seventeenth century home was of solid brick construction, measuring 34 feet in width by 47 feet in length and having walls 28 inches thick laid up in Flemish bond with glazed headers. There was a brick-paved basement, which was

3. See archeological record in Appendix III, A and B.

2. She survived her husband by six years, dying in 1750.

drained to the York River some 500 feet away as the topography seems to have required.⁴

But this home burned and another, this of frame construction, was built near its location with later colonial lines though the dates of the fire and the consequent rebuilding are not fixed from contemporary records. It is of note that Clyde F. Trudell, while on assignment in Colonial National Historical Park, wrote in 1938 that the archeological survey, though it was partial, uncovered "the foundations of both the seventeenth and eighteenth century structures and the most casual observation of the extent and thickness of the massive brick foundations of the earlier structure is convincing proof that Edward Digges lived indeed like a 'royal' governor at E.D. Plantation . . . from the several types of moulded brick and square brick hearth tiles found among the excavations we can imagine the elegance of the superstructure."⁵

4. The recorded observation was: "A vaulted brick drain twenty-four by twenty-six inches paved with brick has been uncovered. This drain is in a good state of preservation and runs from the house in an easterly direction toward the York River." Ibid., p. 6. Since it was seen in excavation and recovered some 35 years ago, this drain has grown in scale and become a tunnel for use in smuggling though obviously no plausible "how" or "why" exists. Mr. Paul Smith, a long-time employee of the Naval Weapons Station and a self-styled historian, is quoted as saying "The foundations uncovered included a 47-inch tunnel that led to the river - a distance of about 500 feet. Built in the tunnel was a little track where a cart might have run. Straight opposite the tunnel in a partition wall was a hole. Opposite that was the base of what might have been a winch." Carol Miller, "Bellfield Site: Faint Echo of Dreams, Richness," Newport News (Va.) The Times-Herald, February 7, 1970, p. 11.

5. Trudell, Colonial Yorktown: Being a Brief Historie of the Place; together with Something of its Houses and Publick Buildings (Richmond, 1938), p. 27.

Trudell also commented: "The manor house burned in the middle of the eighteenth century, the ruins were razed to the ground and a second structure was erected on a different but nearby site. This latter structure was standing until recent times."⁶ Photographs of the second home in its latter days exist⁷ and Trudell has based a suggestive sketch on these.⁸ Unfortunately, the dates of the fire and the construction of the second house are not documented and will remain unknown unless determinations can be made from architecture and archeology.

Edward and Ann soon had a growing family at the E.D. Plantation. There would be at least 13 children, though infant mortality would claim a number of them. The first son, Edward, was born in 1740 but died the next year. In 1741 there was another Edward and he survived but two years. The third son was William, born in 1742, and he became the oldest surviving son and his father's heir. Other children followed, including Cole (1744-1777) and two years later another Edward, who would live until 1818, preserving his father's name in his direct line.⁹

Edward Digges remained in residence and enjoyed his plantation acres, evidently continuing to produce tobacco (including the famous "E. Dees" type) as the staple money crop. In December 1744, for example, he was

6. Ibid., p. 26.

7. See Illustrations Nos. 3 and 4.

8. Trudell, Colonial Yorktown, p. 21.

9. Wm. and Mary Quart., 1st Ser., 1, 145-46. Then there would be Mary (1748-1814), Thomas (1750-1818), Elizabeth (1752-?), Hannah (1754-1756), Anne (1756-1756), Sarah (1757-?), Dudley (1760-?) and Charles. Cole died while a member of the Virginia House of Delegates on May 20, 1777.

one of the heavy losers when the tobacco in the public "York Warehouse" was damaged "by the overflow of the tide." This was in the amount of 2,077 pounds in his eleven hogsheads. By act of the Virginia Assembly he, "Edward Digges, gentlemen, one of the sufferers," was to be reimbursed at the rate of one pound, five shillings, per hundred, whereas other sufferers were to be indemnified at the rate of sixteen shillings, eight pence.¹⁰ In 1763, when an up-to-date list of the tithables¹¹ in York-Hampton Parish was compiled, he stood second in the list with his 56 on his two estates. Only Col. Charles Burwell, with 61, had more on his three estates. The parish as a whole counted 1,109 tithables and 184 taxpayers.¹²

Edward sat regularly in the House of Burgesses from 1734 until 1752 though he did not play a leading role in this Assembly.¹³ He was, however,

10. Hening, Virginia Statutes at Large, 5, 365-71. This likely is further evidence of the fine tobacco grown on the Digges' York County acres.

11. A tithable was any male 16 years of age, or older, and any Negro, mulatto, or Indian woman who was 16, or older, and not free. Tithables constituted a basis of taxation.

12. Tyler's Quart. Hist. and General Mag., 1, 179-80. There was only one other listing with multiple estates. Mrs. Philip Lightfoot had two with 38 tithables, though the Honorables William and Thomas Nelson had 38 and 22 tithables respectively in the parish.

13. Journals of the House of Burgess, 1727-1740, pp. x, 300, 301; 1742-1749, pp. viii, x. He learned, too, early in his attendance, that the House expected careful attention to its affairs. He and two others were taken "into the Custody of the Sejeant at Arms" in September 1736 for "not attending their Duty in the Service of the House." For a time he "attended in Custody." In the period 1734-40 he represented York County with John Buckner, in 1742-47 with William Nelson, and in 1748-49 with Secretary Thomas Nelson.

involved from time to time, as in 1748 when he was named to the committee (one of eight members) to rebuild the capitol in Williamsburg, which had "unhappily burnt down." It was deemed necessary that it "be rebuilt with all possible expedition, for convenient sitting and holding of the General Assemblies and general courts of the colony."¹⁴

It was in July 1746 that there had been another committee, this to manage the "defraying the expense of inlisting, arming, clothing, victualling, an intended expedition against Canada" to the extent of four thousand pounds. Edward was one of this group of nine.¹⁵ It likely was during these active years with extended attendance in Williamsburg that Edward became interested in drama. He had "Shares & interest," along with thirty others, in the "Play House" standing there in December 1745. Actually at that date it was not seeing much use and the subscribers gave it to the "City of Williamsburg." The reason was that "the Playhouse . . . has not been put to any Use for several years, and is now going to Decay" and the city needed space and quarters for its public operations.¹⁶

Edward was not returned to the House of Burgesses after 1750; however, it likely was a matter of personal choice as he remained a respected citizen (an esquire and gentleman) in York. But the family name was still

14. Hening, Virginia Statutes at Large, 6, 197.

15. Hening, Virginia Statutes at Large, 5, 402-04. He was in substantial company here that included John Robinson, Jr., Mr. Secretary Nelson, Richard Randolph, William Beverley, Beverley Whiting, Benjamin Waller, Carter Burwell, and John Harmer.

16. Wm. and Mary Quart., 1st Ser., 24, 29-30.

in the House of Burgess. When the Assembly convened in 1752, Edward's two brothers were representatives--Dudley from York and William from Warwick¹⁷--and both would have long tenures, well past Edward's death. Like Dudley,¹⁸ William Digges of Warwick was a long-time influential citizen from his area.¹⁹ He became William, Senior, as Edward's son William came of age and took the designation of William Digges, Junior, to avoid name confusion.

Edward Digges died on March 22, 1769, though his wife would live on at the plantation for another six years, dying in her 56th year on December 16, 1775. His passing was noted publicly thus: "On Friday last died, in a very advanced age, at his seat in York County, Col. Edward Digges; a Gentleman who was deservedly esteemed by all his acquaintances."²⁰ A friend and associate with whom there were business ties, William Nelson, wrote on November 16, 1769, to an English supplier: "The Box for Colo Ed: Digges was sent to his House; But, poor good Man: he is now no more."²¹ In the fall his estate was being settled with his son William and his brothers Dudley and William serving as executors.²²

17. Journals of the House of Burgesses, 1750-1758, pp. viii, x.

18. Hatch, "Dudley Digges House Outbuildings" report, pp. 5-9.

19. Wm. and Mary Quart., 1st Ser., 1, 148-49; Tyler, Encyclopedia of Va. Biog., 1, 223; Stanard, Col. Va. Register, pp. 151ff.

20. Virginia Gazette (Rind), March 30, 1769.

21. The manuscript William Nelson Letterbook (photographic copy in Library of Colonial NHP), letter to George Maynard.

22. Virginia Gazette (Purdie and Dixon), November 2, 1769. It was announced: "All persons who have any demands against the estate of Edward Digges, Esq. deceased are desired to send their accounts, properly proved to the executors, and they shall be immediately discharged." It was over the names of "William Digges, jun," "William Digges," and "Dudley Digges, jun."

Though his will seems not to have been preserved, the home estate passed to William, Junior, though his mother, Anne, would have her rights in the estate and in the ultimate disposition of "the Household and Kitchen Furniture." It was noted in a later deed that the Digges home plantation "Lands were devised to him the said William Digges junior by his Father Colo Edward Digges as will more fully appear by reference to the Last Will and Testament of the said Colo Edward Digges."²³ Prior to his death, Edward in June 1767 had made some provision for his younger sons, at least in the case of Cole. He deeded him a "Tract of Land containing Two Hundred Acres more or less lying and being between the place where I now live and the Plantation known by the name of the E.D. Plantation in York County." This he had by virtue of a deed from his father Cole. With the deed went "the Slaves now on the said Plantation."²⁴

At his father's death William Digges, Jr., was 27 years of age. When his mother died in 1775 he would have been about 33 and the oldest son. It seems interesting that she made no mention of him in her will, but perhaps she believed him already sufficiently endowed. Ann made her will in May 1772, it being proved in February 1776, several months after her death. In her will she named her sons Cole and Edward as executors; Edward did not join in the probate, however, though it was noted: "Liberty being reserved for Edward Digges the other Executor to join in the Probate when he shall think fit."²⁵

23. Deed Book, No. 6, p. 314.

24. Deeds, No. 7 (1763-1769), p. 351.

25. Appendix II F gives the will in full.

In her will Ann earmarked "my Glass Clock and my Glass corner Cupboard" for her son Cole. Son Thomas was to get her "large looking Glass which now stands in the drawing Room." There were specific items, too, for the daughters Mary ("my large Black Cabinet"), Elizabeth ("my Cedar desk"), and Sarah ("my dressing Table"). And "all other Estate consisting of money Debts or Household Furniture" was to be "equally divided among my three daughters Mary, Elizabeth and Sarah," this after her "just Debts" had been duly accommodated.

Later in the summer of 1776 there was an appraisement of the "Household and Kitchen Furniture belonging to the Estate of Mrs Anne Digges," a listing which was duly recorded in the York County records.²⁶ The value of her estate was given as some £273, and it contained some items other than furniture as a "Sorrell Horse," a "Chariot," and 17 head of cattle, and some 35 bushels of wheat.²⁷

This inventory and appraisement was made irrespective of room locations. It clearly shows a well-appointed home rather abundantly furnished²⁸ and gives some indications of the use of leisure time,²⁹ but beyond the mention of "the drawing Room" in the will there is nothing about the house itself or its dependencies. It would remain for William Digges, Jr., to refurnish the home and assume full operation and enjoyment

of the old home place. Under his management it would take on the name of Bellfield for the first time.

William Digges, Jr., began to appear in public notice after his father's death. In 1771 he was working in concert with Thomas Nelson, Jr., and John Prentis to effect the "Building of a Warehouse at the Capitol Landing [near Williamsburg], forty Feet by twenty, with one ten Foot shed" as well as "the repairing of another Warehouse." This was noted in an advertisement seeking bids from interested contractors.³⁰ About the same time William sought to effect better control of his outlying properties. On September 17, 1771, in the Virginia Gazette he issued this warning: "I Hereby forewarn all Persons from hauling the Seine, or hunting, on my Plantation at Newportsnews, in Warwick and Elizabeth [City] Counties, as I have received much Injury therefrom." There was public service in this period, too. In 1773 he was named a Justice of the Peace becoming a member of the York County Court. He also served for a time as the York Sheriff.³¹

William married his cousin Elizabeth, the daughter of his uncle William Digges, Senior, of Warwick and there were children to share the enjoyment of his York County plantation. There were Frances, Elizabeth, and Edward, the latter of whom attended William and Mary College as did a number of Digges young men in the various generations. It may have been his son Edward who was named keeper of the Chapel at the College in

30. Virginia Gazette (Purdie and Dixon), August 29.

31. Wm. and Mary Quart., 1st Ser., 1, 146-47.

26. See Appendix III G for the appraisement in full.

27. There were some supplies, too, as 20 pounds of candles, salt, brown sugar (83-1/2 pounds), and a "Barrel with Molasses." Some few farm tools were also enumerated.

28. There were some 30 chairs and 8 beds.

29. There was the "Base Viol," the "Blackgammon table," the "56 Volumes Books &c" (valued at £5), two "Bird Cages," and a spinning wheel.

June 1774. In any case Edward, who married in 1775, went on to leave the College for military service as did many students and some of the masters.³²

William Digges, Jr., became increasingly active in the moves that led ultimately to the outbreak of the American Revolution, as did his brothers Cole and Edward and his son Edward. William was a member of the York County Committee of Safety in 1774-75 and he went on to represent York in the Virginia Conventions of 1775 and 1776.³³ He was active in the militia and in troop supply, as in June 1776 when he was issued a warrant earmarked "for repairing arms to Capt Smiths Comp 7th Regt." In November 1777 he was among those named by the governor as a commissioner to execute the act of Assembly entitled "An Act for Speedily Clothing the Troops raised by this Commonwealth now in Continental Service." He was one of three in York County, the other two being William Goosley and Lawrence Smith.³⁴

Evidently William did not see a good deal of active military service, though he was in the local militia and likely remembered an unfavorable ruling against his Uncle William of Warwick by the Council of State on May 2, 1776:

On considering the Petition of Wm Digges Esqre by way of Appeal from a Sentence of the Court Martial of Warwick

32. Wm. and Mary Quart., 1st Ser., 1, 146; 11, 279; 14, 31; The Virginia Historical Register and Literary Advertiser, 3, 197. On June 11, 1775, Edward married Elizabeth Gaskins a young lady of 19.

33. Ibid., p. 212; Standard, Colonial Virginia Register, p. 209.

34. Journals of the Council of State of Virginia, edited by H.R. McIlwaine (Richmond, 1932), 2, 38, 512.

County fining him and his son Cole Digges for not attending at Musters of the Militia; The Commee are of the Opinion they have no right to take cognizance of the subject, no Appeal to them from fines laid on private Militia men, being allowed by the Ordance of the Convention.³⁵

William Digges, Jr., remained in the York area after the cessation of hostilities and did his local stint in the transition back to normal living. In 1782 he was a county lieutenant and concerned with the settlement of war accounts. Also, in June 1782 he became a "Magistrate of the said County" of York when given a "Commission of the Peace & Oyer & Terminer." All the while, it seems, he remained in residence on his York River estate.³⁶

In 1781 the old Digges place was, or became, known to the French cartographers with the armies that invested Yorktown and forced the surrender of Cornwallis. There was a rather good understanding of the peninsula area between Yorktown and Williamsburg, especially along the York River, even though some of the small creeks and their branches were not precisely delineated. This latter led to the placement of "Digges's old house," in an instance or two, closer to Yorktown than was the case and too far away (east) from Felgate Creek. Even so there seems little reason to doubt the identity of the plantation, which was clearly shown.³⁷

35. Ibid., p. 493.

36. Ibid., 3 (edited by Wilmer L. Hall), 136; John H. Gwathmey, Historical Register of Virginians in the Revolution: Soldiers - Sailors - Marines (Richmond, 1938), p. 225.

37. It had been noted as a landmark place, "Digges," above "York" on the Jefferson and Fry Map of 1751. ("A Map of the Inhabited part of Virginia including the whole Province of Maryland . . ." by Joshua Fry and Peter Jefferson.)

The area around "Digges" southeastward from Felgate Creek was, it seems, fully open and in cultivation right up to the edge of the river bank.³⁸ The access road into the plantation seat was directly from the Yorktown-Williamsburg road that ran down the middle of the peninsula. It branched off this main road near the "brick house," perhaps a mile east of the "half Way House." There was also a fork that branched toward Yorktown before it entered the main road.³⁹ One 1781 interpretation indicated a kind of developed area near the mouth of Felgate Creek with a road leading to it. This same interpretation indicates a rather extensive grounds, or yard area, about the "Diggs" mansion.⁴⁰

Notations were made to the effect that the Digges home site area was good for troop encampment⁴¹ though there is no indication that it was used for this purpose in any important respect. It is suggested, however, that lookouts were posted here as the river view from the steep bank offered a highly useable vantage point, there being no woods on the bank of the river facing the mansion house. The general area

38. "Carte de la Campagne de la Division aux ordres du Mis de St Simon en Virginie depuis le 27 bre 1781. Jusqu'a la Reddition d'Yorck le 19 8bre même année," photocopy in Colonial NHP Library (map unidentified except by title).

39. "Notes Sur les Environs de York," photocopy in Park Library from manuscript map in Library of Congress. See Illustration No. 1.

40. "Carte de la Campagne Faite en Virginia in 1781" by Pechon, aide-camp to General St. Simon. Photocopy in Colonial NHP Library of copy in Library of Congress (original in Paris, Guerre, Etats-Majors, LID 174.) See Illustration No. 2.

41. "Digges's old house est à 2. miles 1/2. de york; Le terrain environnant est bon Camp." Illustration No. 1.

westward from this was described as thick-timbered, where not interrupted by deep ravines and plantation operations.⁴²

As the Siege progressed and the British were tightly hemmed in, the Digges place became an allied rendezvous point--even a temporary supply depot. George Weedon (early in command on the Gloucester side) wrote on October 8 to Washington concerning new means of communication between Yorktown and Gloucester. He thought that route by way of the fleet the most secure. The second was to be from camp "over to the seat of Colo William Digges four or five Miles above York."⁴³ Governor Thomas Nelson, it is noted, wrote from the "Camp before York" on October 16, 1781, to French General Choisy (then commanding the besieging forces before Gloucester) that he had just received his letter of the 13th and continued:

I have been informed by the Quarter Master General that he can furnish for the Use of the Corps under your Command the Number of Harness you require. They shall be sent to Digges's on York River to which Place I understand your boats from Gloucester come. You will be pleased to inform me whether this Mode of conveying them will suit you, & if it will, at what Time the Boats will attend.⁴⁴

This suggests the obvious, perhaps, that the Digges place had a useful wharf or landing structure, something that must have existed

42. Ibid., "Bois Epais entrecoupe's de Ravines profonds et de plantations."

43. Wm. and Mary Quart., 2nd Ser., 20, 227-28.

44. H.R. McIlwaine (ed.), Official Letters of the Governors of the State of Virginia 3 (Richmond, 1929), 85. Nelson continued further: "At present every Waggon in Camp is most necessarily employed, but some are daily expected from the upper Country with Supplies for the Army, Part of which I will dispatch as soon as they arrive for the Use of your Army."

throughout colonial times. It could perhaps have been at the mouth of Felgate Creek on the southeast side. Such use of the plantation as it had during the Siege likely damaged the plantation facilities and this may have been a reason for William Digges' increasing financial difficulties after the war.

Like many of his associates, William Digges appears to have emerged from the war with aggravated financial problems due to trade disruption, falling currency values, plantation neglect, and war damage. In his case there may have been a hint of things to come even in September 1773 when John Norton of London found it necessary to return some "protested bills to the proprietors" through his Virginia representative in Yorktown. One such bill was from "Wm Digges Jun. on T & R Hunts" for a hundred pounds sterling.⁴⁵

After the war things did not improve. On November 16, 1785, Digges and his wife Elizabeth "of Bellfield"⁴⁶ conveyed "in trust" to Thomas Nelson, Jr., some 400 acres of his York County property.⁴⁷ This deed of mortgage enumerated debts to various parties totaling some 1,500 pounds "current Virginia money" with interest accumulating.⁴⁸

45. John Norton & Sons . . . Papers, p. 353.

46. This is the earliest noted use of the name Bellfield, which replaced the older designation of "Edward Digges Plantation."

47. York County Records, Deed Book, No. 6, p. 293. This "Tract or Parcel of Land [was] situate lying and being in the County of York containing four hundred Acres being the old House Tract and as much of that Tract distinguished by the name of Colliers as will be sufficient to make the above-mentioned four hundred Acres."

48. Besides Thomas Nelson, Jr., his creditors were William Goosley (£822) and "Thomas Nelson, junr, and Company" of Yorktown (£280), Hawkins Reade of York County (£19), Cole Digges of James City County (£206) and Susannah Riddell (wife of George Riddell, deceased), £171.

But this did not solve all of William's financial problems. On November 17, 1785, the day after his conveyance of 400 acres to Nelson, he placed his home estate of "Bellfield" in trust to Dudley Digges, Jr., of York, insuring the use of it to "Elizabeth Digges Wife of the said William Digges to and for the term of and during her natural Life." But this arrangement endured only a year and a half and he found it necessary, on June 17, 1787, to secure release from his deed of use for Elizabeth even though it required the expenditure of £500 current money of Virginia. In the meanwhile there had been "a late Survey" and the place now "commonly called and Known by the name of the Bellefield Tract" was determined to include 1,156-3/4 acres. This in all likelihood was in preparation for its sale.⁴⁹

On January 22, 1787, William had found it necessary to mortgage his "Bellfield Estate" to William Waller of the "Town and County of Hanover." This was in the amount of £3700, 5s at five per cent interest. It covered the entire 1,156-3/4 acres and was described as:

All that Tract or Parcel of Land situate lying and being in the Parish of York Hampton and county of York and bounded as follows by York River Fellgat Creek by Francis Lee, Potters Estate, the Revd John Bracken's Lands and Benjamin C. Wallers Lands and known by the name of Bellfield Estate.⁵⁰

Six months later, on June 19, the mortgage became a sale which was duly recorded on January 1, 1788, the only changing detail being the sale price of £3,470, 5s--300 pounds less than the mortgage.⁵¹ Perhaps

49. Deed Book, No. 6, pp. 314 and 357.

50. Deed Book, No. 6, p. 334.

51. Ibid., p. 358.

this can be explained in the sale of the mill which conceivably could be understood to have been included in the mortgage. In any case, on June 19, 1787 (recorded January 1, 1788), William Digges of York, "Gent", and his wife Elizabeth, for £300, sold to William Waller, "Merchant" of Hanover:

All that Water Grist Mill commonly called and known by the name of Digges's Mill with an Acre of Land on each side thereof adjoining and contiguous to the said Mill for the use of the same lying and being in the Parish of York Hampton in the County of York and bounded according to the known and lawful bounds thereof.⁵²

It is stated in later deeds that the "Water Grist Mill" was actually "adjoining the said Bellefield estate," and was between it and the Indian Field quarter.⁵³ With these sales William Digges moved from York County and others than Diggeses took possession and ownership of the plantation that had been the Digges family home for almost one and a half centuries.

Though William with the sale of Bellfield moved to Newport News to other of his holdings in Warwick, he did not forsake the public service responsibilities so long a tradition in the Digges family. He represented Warwick County in the House of Delegates of the Virginia Assembly in 1790-91 and again from 1802 to 1805, and he was twice sheriff of the County (1797-98 and 1805-07).⁵⁴

52. Deed Book, No. 6, p. 360.

53. Deed Book, No. 8, p. 377, and No. 11, p. 374. In 1830 it was noted as "the Mill and Mill seat attached to the Indian Field's and Bell field estate."

54. Wm. and Mary Quart., 1st Ser., 1 146, 212.

CHAPTER 6

The Wallers, the Joneses, the Corbins and the McCandlishes

When William Waller purchased Bellfield, he was a merchant and resident of Hanover "Town and County." Being established there, it appears that he did not personally occupy his new holding--certainly not on any extended basis. More likely he made it available to his son William M., who established residence here with his wife Elizabeth. Even so William, the purchaser, was still in actual ownership at the time of his death prior to April 1799. It was then that the Bellfield home plantation descended to William M. and Lucy, the only children. In due course William M. purchased his sister's "moiety" and became the full owner.¹

The Waller family was an old one in Virginia dating from the early

1. Deed Book, No. 8, p. 377. Lucy married Dr. Thomas Massie, who had apprenticed to Dr. James Drew McCaw of Richmond. He was graduated in Philadelphia and spent four years in schools in Edinburgh, London, and Paris, returning to America in 1807. In the War of 1812 he served as a surgeon and later was active in public service--"a most polished, literary and interesting man." Va. Mag. Hist. Biog., 4, 448; Wm. and Mary Quart., 1st. Ser., 15, 126.

days of the Colony.² It became a dominant one in several localities, particularly in the Spotsylvania County area.³ It was Benjamin Waller (1716-1786) who did much to establish the family in the Yorktown-Williamsburg section. He moved from Spotsylvania County, where he was born, to Williamsburg and became a respected leader, active in public service. He served as burgess, councilor, and member of various Virginia revolutionary conventions, ending his career with an eight-year term as Judge of the General Court. His also became a large family, including son Robert Hall Waller, who served as Clerk of the York County Court. It was his son William who became established in Hanover and purchased Bellfield, which likely he had known for some time prior to the purchase in 1787.⁴

Judging by the inventory, appraisal, and sales account of William's estate at Bellfield (a matter of record in the York County Courthouse), it was an established one in active operation. When filed on April 27, 1799, the detailed appraised inventory value of his personal property here was £3,214/3/0.⁵ The farm operation is in part documented

2. Seemingly the family was established here about 1635 by Col. John Waller of England, who settled in New Kent County. Tradition reports that this Colonel John "was a young fellow so wild that his friends thought he had best be passed off to the Colony of Va., and there take his chances rather than stay in England, where the temptations are much more considerable than in the colony." In any case Colonel John was very successful in Virginia. Horace Edwin Hayden, Virginia Genealogies: A Genealogy of the Glassell Family . . . and Others, of Virginia and Maryland (Wilkes-Barre, Penn., 1891), p. 382.

3. Va. Mag. Hist. Biog., 1, 256; 4, 303; 7, 190; 8, 249, 252, 255; 24, 198.

4. Hayden, Virginia Genealogies, pp. 382-83; Wm. and Mary Quart., 1st Ser. 4, 61-62.

5. See Appendix II H.

here in the 48 slaves,⁶ the sheep flock of 85,⁷ the cattle herd of 70 head,⁸ the 3 "yoke of oxen," the 71 hogs,⁹ 4 "work horses," and the farm tools and equipment¹⁰ including "3 flax wheels" and a "Flax Hackle." There was, too, the "Single chair & Harness" and the "Carriage & Harness" with the two "Bay carriage Horses (old)" as well as a seeming interest in blooded horses.¹¹ Much of the live stock was listed as "At the Stable & Pasture &c" though some followed the items listed as "In the Kitchen Dairy."

There is no descriptive data about the home in any of these listings, there being no reference to particular rooms, or spaces. There is only the designation "In the House." The volume, however, is sufficient to establish a sizeable structure, as in the case of the entry "6 Beds 6 Bolsters 6 Pillows & 5 Bedsteads." There were 13 chairs and an assortment of tables of various types and a number of larger pieces as two sideboards (one in black walnut) and a mahogany desk and book-

6. Including 24 males, 16 females, 7 boys, 3 girls, and 8 children.

7. There were 27 lambs and 58 sheep.

8. Some 50 cattle, 8 calves, and 22 yearlings.

9. Eight sows (2 of them having a total of 14 pigs), 4 "barrows," 22 year-old hogs, 34 shoats, and 1 boar.

10. Including the "Painted Tumbrill," "Ox Cart and Chains," "X cut & Whip saws," grindstones, and the "2 Barshare plows."

11. As in the items "Sorrell Mare in foal by Bedford," "Small Colt got by Damon," and "Young bay mare by Shakespear." Altogether there were 10 horses listed, these three, the four work horses, two other mares, and a colt.

case. In the sale¹² which followed (evidently a public sale), essentially all of the household items were purchased by "Mrs E. Waller," who likely was in residence at the time as Mrs. William M. (Elizabeth) Waller.¹³ It could well have been accommodated within the space limits of the old house as described in February 1926 prior to its demolition. It was "a tall, two-story and attic frame structure, with a big fireplace and chimney at either end, a basement beneath running the full length of the house. The writer [who had visited here] stated that there were two rooms on each floor, and that tucked away on both sides of the chimneys at either end of the building were little closets with windows opening on the outside of the house."¹⁴

Evidently the Wallers continued to reside at "Bellfield," it being "the estate of the said William M. Waller." However, in December 1815 he and his wife decided to make a change. They sold the old home plantation, that between Felgate and Indian Field creeks, thus reducing the old Digges estate to smaller limits. The sale included, "by a late survey, 772 acres with a Marsh annexed and belonging thereto not included in said survey."¹⁵ The sale also included the Waller interest (it being

12. This included the 74-1/2 ounces of silver "plate." (See Appendix II H.)

13. The "Blackgammon Tables" were one exception. Much of the livestock including the blooded horses, and the flax wheels and the "Hackle," were sold to neighbors and others from the vicinity.

14. Herndon, "The Stories of Bellfield and Edward Digges," p. 17. He quotes this story from the Alexandria Gazette issue of February 10, 1926.

15. Deed Book, No. 8, p. 377. The deed further recited that the land had descended to William M. Waller and Lucy (then the wife of Thomas Massie), the only children of William Waller, deceased. Lucy and her husband had then sold their interest to her brother.

a one-fourth part) "in a Water Grist Mill adjoining the said Bellefield estate." There was also reference to, and a reservation affecting, the old burial ground: "reserving however the spot of ground near the House on said Land used as grave yard, which is in no instance to be cultivated or destroyed by the said Scervant Jones [the purchaser, "now of the Town of York"] or any person claiming by or under him or his heirs." The sale was for the sum of four thousand pounds.

To finance his purchase, Jones and his wife (Ann T. in 1816, Nancy Timpson in 1829) gave a deed of trust to Thomas Griffin of the "Town of York and County" to cover a loan of £3,000, three-fourths of the purchase price, he agreeing to pay it in three annual installments. It was stated in this instrument that, the "well known Estate called Bellfield" was "bounded as follows: by York River, Phelgates Creek, Indian Creek, and a large ditch running across from the said Creeks, being the dividing line between the said Estate and the Lands of Thomas Mutter, deceased called Indian Fields." It was reiterated that it included 772 acres plus the marsh and "a Water Grist Mill attached to the said Estate."¹⁶ Jones met his payments and in due course, in 1819, his deed of trust was released.¹⁷

16. Deed Book, No. 8, p. 350; No. 11, p. 68.

17. Ibid., No. 9, p. 405.

There is nothing to indicate that Scervant Jones and his wife took up residence here. More likely he was resident in Yorktown until he moved to Williamsburg. He was here at least by 1834 when he began to operate one of the approved boarding houses for William and Mary College students. It is of record that earlier he owned and operated the Swan Tavern in Yorktown, under one arrangement or the other, from 1812 to about 1820. Seemingly he had an affinity for real estate and business deals and was no stranger to financial arrangements involving loans and time payments. Just after he completed his payments for Bellfield, for example, he bought, in 1820, adjacent Ringfield and obligated himself on this for another eight years, getting clear title in 1828. Though a business man, Jones was also a prominent Baptist clergyman who was an organizer of the first church of that faith in Williamsburg.¹⁸

Though the currency exchanges are difficult to compute and compare, Jones may have realized a good profit on his Bellfield "speculation." In 1815 he paid 4,000 pounds for it and when he disposed of it in 1829 the sale price was \$14,000. Besides, he had the income from rentals, or

18. Wm. and Mary Quart., 1st Ser., 25, 72, and 2nd Ser., 3, 272-86 passim, and 4, 4-258 passim; Charles E. Hatch, Jr., Ringfield Plantation, a report dated March, 1970 (issued by the Office of History and Historic Architecture, Eastern Service Center, National Park Service), Chapter IX; Deed Book, No. 9, pp. 49, 52, and No. 10, p. 421; William A. R. Goodwin, Bruton Parish Church Restored and Its Historic Environment (Petersburg, Va., 1927), p. 23.

crops, in the 14-year interval. He sold it to Richard R. Corbin, "now of the County of Gloucester," the sale including the 772 acres of ground "with a Marsh" plus developments and improvements. It also embraced Jone's "one fourth part" interest in the "Water Grist Mill adjoining the said Bellfield Estate" together with "all the Appendages, advantages and appurtenances." The reservation of "the spot of ground, near the House on said Land, used as a Grave Yard" was continued. It "in no instance" was "to be cultivated or destroyed by the said Richard R. Corbin or any person claiming by or under him or his heirs."¹⁹

This deed was made, and recorded the same day, on September 9, 1829. Perhaps Richard R. Corbin was preparing to move in right away, though he would remain in actual ownership only six months. Perhaps he had a bad turn in financial affairs. By deed dated March 2, 1830 (recorded eleven days later), he disposed of it to Robert McCandlish of the "City of Williamsburg" at a considerably reduced price. He had paid \$14,000 and sold it for \$8,000, the descriptive language possibly indicating a little more acreage than Corbin had bought from Jones. It was now described as "all that tract of land situate lying and being on York river in the County of York where the said Richard R. Corbin at present resides called and known by the name of Bellefield containing by estimation eight hundred Acres exclusive of Marsh, be the same more or less, according to its antient and know boundaries." With it went Corbin's interest in "the Mill and Mill seat attached to the

19. Deed Book, No. 11, p. 68.

Indian Fields and Bellefield estates." There was no reference to the burial ground reservation, though nothing has been seen to indicate that there had been any legal process to remove this reservation.²⁰ This being the case, it would still remain with the property despite lack of reference.

Though the Corbin to McCandlish deed seems to have been a good one, it may have been considered as a deed-of-trust. In any case it was duly re-entered in the York County records three years later (February 18, 1833). Perhaps this suggest that McCandlish agreed to let Corbin and his wife Mary stay on for a time as technically in possession, or as a tenant, or lessee, occupants.²¹

Richard R. Corbin was the son of the noted Maj. Gawin Lane Corbin, seated on King Creek in York County, who died in 1821. Actually he was the principal beneficiary of his father's will after the payment of debts and \$11,000 in legacies to his other brother and his sisters. The Corbins were related to the Wallers, as Major Corbin's will states. He named his son Richard and "my relations William and Robert P. Waller Administrators."

Col. Robert McCandlish already was a prominent citizen of Williamsburg when he purchased Bellfield. He was the son of Robert McCandlish (the Scotsman who came to Virginia and settled in Essex County, where

he taught school) and Elizabeth Coleman of Essex.²² A colonel in the militia and a noted attorney, he was also active in the Masonic Order²³ and often busy with students attending William and Mary (his own as well as those of his relatives) supplying sponsorship and/or domicile as the situation indicated.²⁴ His second wife was Rebecca Sheild, daughter of Col. Robert Sheild of York, and one such student was Edwin Sheild, a close relative of his wife. Edwin, like his own son Robert, entered law.²⁵

In Williamsburg, Colonel McCandlish was a near neighbor and intimate friend of John Tyler. It is reported by a later member of the Tyler family that:

They were congenial companions and very fond of fishing, and many a famous outing was had by them at Bellfield, where the fishing in York River was fine. When Tyler became president, his thought would revert at times from the turmoil of his situation to the pleasant surroundings of Bellfield. "Does Bellfield look smilingly?" he asks of Col. McCandlish in a letter. "Would I were there with you."²⁶

McCandlish for several decades continued his use of Bellfield as a second home, maintaining his principal residence in Williamsburg. This is noted especially in the mid-1850s when Bishop William Meade was a

20. Deed Book, No. 11, pp. 110.

21. Ibid., p. 374; Va. Mag. Hist. Biog., 3, 406-07. There still was no reference to the graveyard restriction in the second recording.

22. Wm. and Mary Quart., 1st Ser., 5, 38, and 8, 275.

23. He was one of six managers of a ball scheduled for the capitol on December 27, 1816, on the occasion of the "Festival of St. John" and in 1848, he, a past master, was a leader in the reactivation of the Lodge in Williamsburg. Wm. and Mary Quart., 1st. Ser., 1, 31, and 25, 146.

24. Ibid., 2nd Ser., 2, 161-170, 280-85, and 4, 53ff.

25. Ibid., 1st Ser., 4, 59, and 2nd Ser., 3, 163-70, 269. Edwin lived with him during the sessions from 1828 through 1832.

26. Wm. and Mary Quart., 1st Ser., 15, 38.

guest here. The visit came after he learned that the "family-seat of the Digges of Bellfield, about eight miles from Williamsburg" was "now owned by Colonel Robert McCandlish." About his visit he recored:²⁷

I recently spent a night there with Colonel McCandlish and a part of his family, who met me at this--which is only their occasional--residence. I found the tombs in much better order than at most of the old family graveyards. They are massive. The top-stones, on which the inscriptions are put, are of what is called ironstone, or black marble, being the hardest or heaviest stone in England, scarcely less heavy than iron itself. It preserves the inscriptions also much better than any other kind of stone or marble.

Colonel McCandlish reunited the Bellfield and Indian Fields estates and early in 1833 purchased another part ("moiety," or share) in the water grist mill which stood between the two. This he bought for \$118 from "Thomas Massie M.D. of the County of Nelson," who had acquired it through his wife Lucy Waller.²⁸

There is nothing to indicate that Robert McCandlish ever disposed of Bellfield, nor is there any record of his will or any settlement of his estate. Evidently he died seized of Bellfield and it passed to his children. In 1878 at least a major interest was held by his son Robert McCandlish, then settled in Middlesex, where he became a prominent attorney.

27. Meade, Old Churches, Ministers and Families of Virginia (Philadelphia, 1857), 1, 197, 243-44. Meade was then collecting material for his publication. He began his investigation in 1854. Consequently his visit was likely in 1854 or 1855.

28. Deed Book, No. 11, p. 494. This was described as "an undivided fourth part of a certain mill with its appurtenances lying and being in the County of York and attached to the Bellfield and Indian fields estates whereof the said Robert McCandlish now has possession." The deed was dated January 30, 1833 (recorded on August 6, 1834).

Robert of Middlesex then was about to marry Nannie E. Montague of King and Queen County and was desirous of settling some portion of his property upon "her as she will on the 23rd of November next he and become his lawful wife." The deed was dated November 21 and conveyed, with general warranty, "all right, title, and interest which he may have in law or equity to the tract of land called 'Bellfield' situated in York County on York river and about three miles above Yorktown." The property was "to be held by her for and during her Natural life and at her death to be equally divided among such children as may be then living and the descendants of such as may have died." The deed, however, gave her "the absolute power to sell and dispose of such land if she thinks best, and her deed shall convey an absolute title."²⁹

Though dated 1878, this deed was not verified and recorded until September 23, 1887. Apparently the occasion was directly related to the transfer of title for a one-fourth interest in the old Robert McCandlish estate, "not yet divided." This was covered in a deed from Robert McCandlish as a special commissioner to Howard S. McCandlish, "it being the whole interest of Tho's. P. McCandlish decd."³⁰

The York County Land Book for 1893 reflects this as it carries three-fourths interest still in the name of "Robert McCandlish, Estate" and one-fourth in ownership of Howard S. McCandlish of Washington, D.C.,

29. Deed Book, No. 21, p. 194.

30. The description was "one undivided fourth interest in the real estate in the bill and proceedings mentioned and known as 'Bellfield' situated in York County on York River between Indian Creek and Philgates Creek." Though dated December 24, 1888, this was not recorded until November 1892. Deed Book, No. 22, p. 477.

being 769 acres (576-3/4 and 192-1/4 respectively).³¹

In April 1903 the Howard S. McCandlish interest was transferred to Florence S. McCandlish, his wife, in the consideration of one dollar and love and affection. And some of the language of this deed is, perhaps, meaningful as it included more than the land. It was land "together with all the personal property thereto appertaining including Stock of all kind, farming instruments together with all and singular the tenements, hereditaments, and appurtenances there unto belonging."³²

Earlier there had been a division of the estate by the heirs who "did agree to and did divide and partition the said farm Bellfield amongst themselves by metes, and bounds." Those involved, it was reported in the preamble to a deed of 1902, were "Thomas P. McCandlish, in his life time, Howard S. McCandlish, Mary McCandlish before her marriage, and Robert McCandlish." Actually, prior to 1904 the estate had been broken into three farms with acreages of some 287, 241 and 200 respectively.³³ Neither, however, included:

any right or title to the old Bellfield house and the curtilage thereof, including the yard and garden, which is held in common by the parties to this deed [Howard S. McCandlish and his wife Florence, Nannie E. McCandlish and Dr. William K. Gatewood and Mary McCandlish his wife] it not being included when the division of the farm was made but held and set apart for the sole use of Rebecca McCandlish deceased.³⁴

31. Land Book, 1893, Nelson District Section.

32. Deed Book, No. 26, p. 261.

33. Land Book, 1902, Nelson District Section.

34. Deed Book, No. 26, p. 256.

Of the three farms,³⁵ two would pass out of the McCandlish family prior to the acquisition of the entire farm and all adjacent areas by the United States for inclusion in the Naval Weapons Station. This followed the Presidential Proclamation of August 18, 1918 which was an implementation of the Act of Congress dated July 1, 1918.³⁶

Commander A.H. Miles about 1925 wrote that because of excellent transportation, good deep-water river frontage, the nearness of other armed forces facilities, and the quiet sparsely settled countryside, the "eighteen miles square" tract near Yorktown "was selected as the best location on the east coast to concentrate the Navy's mine activities." This lay back of the Presidential Proclamation of August 7, 1918, and

35. There was a fourth tract of some interest here though not particularly critical to the discussion which follows. It does, however, have boundary data that may be useful. It lay inland and southwest of the others, being covered by a court-ordered deed for 195 acres for which George W. Ripley had paid \$1,450. It was "a part of said farm ["of Bellfield"] beyond the outer fence and near the Millpond, and included in following boundaries: Starting at a point where the Bellfield line ditch touches the Indian fields line, thence along that line until it strikes the road to Indian fields, thence along that road to the mill, thence across the dam excluding the mill site and two acres, and along the Main road to the holly on Lee's line and including all the land on both sides of the road to said holly, thence along Lee's line to the Creek marsh until it strikes the ditch bank on Bellfield, thence along the said bank to point of beginning." Deed Book, No. 25, p. 412.

36. Public 182, 65th Congress. (See various deeds recorded in Deed Book, No. 37.) When title actually passed to the United States from then owners E.W. Harwood and his wife, Eugenia, for the farm that descended through Mary McCandlish (that bordering on Felgate Creek and York River), it is clear from the description that the farm descending through Nannie E. McCandlish had passed to S.R. Curtis and that descending through Howard McCandlish remained with his wife, Florence T. McCandlish. Deed Book, No. 37, p. 205.

implementation was swift. "The Bureau of Ordnance of the Navy Department assumed possession one month later" and the Naval Mine Depot was born.³⁷ Quickly the Bellfield acres were integrated into the new defense facility which continues now as the Yorktown Naval Weapons Station.

It was wartime when the post was created and an interesting development followed, though it would be short-lived. As Miles reported, the old Bellfield acres became the site of an early air-field. The property, in part, "was used during the World War [World War I] as an Aviation Training Camp and considered by naval flyers as one of the best flying fields in the country." He added, however, that the need passed and in 1925 "The abandoned [airplane] hangers and buildings were [being] salvaged as occasion rose for use of the material."³⁸

37. "The Naval Mine Depot, Yorktown, Va.," a mimeographed brief history of the Station (c. 1925), pp. 1ff.

38. Ibid., p. 6. The landing strip even had its balloon hangar, and pictures of some of the facilities survive. Carol Miller (staff writer), "Bellfield Site: Faint Echo of Dreams, Richness," in Newport News (Va.) The Times-Herald, February 7, 1970, p. 11.

CHAPTER 7

The Last Chapter for An Old House

Deeds describing the three Bellfield farms in 1903-04 shed some light on the operations at that time and on the then-existing roads, the rights-of-way for which were guaranteed to the respective owners.¹ One farm, that which descended through Mary McCandlish, was known as "Lofty's Field" and faced on Felgate Creek and York River, extending downriver to the old Bellfield home site. This was said to be 200 acres until survey established it at 187.04 acres prior to 1920.²

There was one road across this property that led "to Felgates Creek out to the extreme end of the point known as Lofty's Point." A second road led "to what is known as the Grain Landing . . . this landing being also called Deep Landing, and situated on the broad shore." A third road touched the farm, it being "the usual main farm road." This gave land ingress and egress for all of the various farms, having been developed earlier especially to serve the old mansion area. Use of this latter was assured to all of the various owners. This included,

1. Deed Book, No. 26, pp. 209, 256, 590.

2. Ibid., p. 590; No. 37, p. 205.

too, an inholder on Lofty Point, one Capt. P.M. Van Name.³

A second farm (some 387 acres) was that which descended through Nannie E. McCandlish. It faced on the York River and in part lay between "the old Belfield house and the curtilage there" and Indian Field Creek. The downriver line followed low water "to the extreme point of Sandy Point." From this spot it was inland "along the windings and curvings" of the creek to a line marking a bound of the third farm, that descending through Howard S. McCandlish.⁴

The third farm (some 241 acres) did not have river frontage and stretched between the upper reaches of Indian Field and Felgate creeks generally behind the other two. This part of the Bellfield estate was known as "Brook's Point, Barnfield, Walnut Tree Point and New Ground . . . on which the overseer's house and Wheat barn are located." This sug-

3. This "outlet over said farm called Bellfield is also accorded to Capt. P.M. Van Name forever," this "for himself and family." Van Name had purchased, in August 1873, "two acres of highland" at "Lofty's Point" on the "Belfield farm." This had been sold by the Robert McCandlish heirs (Thomas P., Howard S., Robert, Junior, and Mary M. McCandlish) for \$1,000. Seemingly it was deeded to Van Name to give him a base for his continuing oyster business. The McCandlishes retained "the oyster privilege," it was recorded, and "all of the oyster front of said land hereby conveyed." This was to implement another provision, that "said Van Name is to rent the oyster bottom as he has heretofore been doing." The Van Name parcel was bounded on the south by "Philgates Creek" and "Lofty's Field," on the east by "Lofty's Field," on the west by "Philgates Creek" again, and on the north by York River. As the plat shows there was a frontage on the river of 6.48 chains on a "S 69-1/4° E" bearing. The McCandlishes, too, had reserved their right-of-way across this property "to the end of Lofty's Point for both man and beast." Deed Book, No. 18, p. 429.

4. Deed Book, No. 26, p. 256; No. 37, p. 205. Sandy Point no longer exists as such though it is still a sand spit. It was cut off when the entrance to Indian Field Creek was shifted upriver when the hydraulic fill was placed, in the early 1930s, in front of "Officer's Row" of the Naval Weapons Station to carry the Colonial Parkway in this area.

gests that at the time of this deed describing it (1902) there may have been some overall common operation of the three farms. A principal road led into this area and through it to old Bellfield from the southwest over the land of the now adjoining holding of George W. Ripley.⁵

From all indications the farm areas of the Bellfield estate continued productive into the early years of this century, though the direction had long ago moved away from tobacco. The son of a lessee of a part of Lansdowne Estate (embracing old Ringfield Plantation) just across Felgates Creek later remembered pleasantly the years 1906-09 when he lived here as a lad with his father, who farmed the area. "Both Belfield and Indianfield Farms were fertile and productive units."

5. Ibid., No. 25, p. 412; No. 26, p. 209; No. 37, p. 205. Perhaps the bounds for the third farm will be useful as they mention a good many of the old landmarks: "Starting on a point on the lane, it being a corner where the lands of Daniel Morris, who bought the interest of Mary M. McCandlish, Nannie E. McCandlish and Howard S. McCandlish meet, thence South along the fence of Brook's Point field to the gate across the lane, thence easterly along the line, separating the land of Nannie E. McCandlish from the land of Howard S. McCandlish to Indian field Creek to low water mark, thence along the windings and curvings of said Creek to low water mark until it strikes the line dividing Indian field from Belfield, thence along said line to the ditch bank, thence along said ditch bank dividing the land of George W. Ripley from the land of Howard S. McCandlish, until it strikes the line running from the Holly Tree dividing the land of Frank Lee dec'd, thence along the long established line of the Bellfield Farm to Felgates Creek to low water mark, thence along the windings and curvings of said creek to low water mark, until it strikes the line on the land of Daniel Morris, thence along said dividing line to the point of beginning."

The crops now were grain (especially wheat and corn). He recalled too that the "waters of York River produced large crops of the finest oysters known to the East Coast. The same could have been said then of Felgates Creek."⁶

Another farmer, a tenant at Ringfield, more or less endorsed these same observations in his recollections of a year (1910) on this place. He farmed Ringfield, producing hay, corn, and potatoes, and enjoyed, too, the succulent oysters from the nearby waters.⁷

Through the years the old Bellfield house, the second house on the place, continued in use, though it may not have been the principal operating center of the agricultural operations after the death of the senior Robert McCandlish prior to 1873. When his heirs divided the estate, they set aside the old house and its immediate grounds as a property in common to be enjoyed by their mother, Rebecca, who lived on for another quarter-century. Rebecca McCandlish died prior to 1902. Thus for a time the "old Bellfield house and the curtilage thereof, including the yard and garden" had its separate story.⁸ After this it seems to have entered a time of acute deterioration.

6. A letter of May 23, 1959, from Ernest A. Vaughn to Charles E. Hatch, Jr., in the files of Colonial N.H.P.; Wm. and Mary Quart., 1st Ser., 15, 38-39.

7. Recollections of Charles H. Mast in 1966 and 1968 during visits to the area. See Hatch, Ringfield Plantation, Chapter IX.

8. Deed Book, No. 26, pp. 209, 256. The references to the "old Bellfield house" in these deeds between McCandlishes (plus a total lack of other facts and indications) would seem to rule out all possibility that the last Bellfield house could have been built by Robert McCandlish after his purchase of the property in 1830.

The old home was still standing, though long neglected, when the United States Navy took over the property in 1918. It was then "occupied by a colored Gentlemen by the name of William Banks," the last occupant. Seemingly it was deemed beyond repair, or restoration, and the Navy in due course "razed it as a fire hazard."⁹ This, however, did not happen immediately, as the old structure endured for almost another decade. The commanding officer of the Naval Mine Depot wrote in 1925: "The house being of no value is unoccupied and rapidly going to decay."¹⁰ In the interim, too, it seems to have been subject to vandalism and salvage for materials.¹¹

In February 1926 a visitor who had been to the area (evidently just prior to the demolition of the house) described "Crumbling Bellfield" in a press story: "the yard is so overgrown with mulberry shoots that it is almost impossible to get to the building except in winter when the trees and shrubs are bare." He related that "the balustrade and

9. Susan Clingan, "The History of the Naval Weapons Station," a mimeographed account (May 8, 1961), p. 13.

10. Cmdr. A.H. Miles, "U.S. Navy Mine Depot," p. 7. He well knew that despite this, "Naturally this is a particularly revered spot to Virginia antiquarians."

11. According to one report: "Some of the woodwork from the building went into the restoration of the Moore House on the Yorktown Battlefield, and some paneling and hinges went to a descendant in Gloucester." Clingan, "Naval Weapons Station," p. 13. Another report is that one of the quarters at the Naval Weapons Station has a mantel from the old house. (An informal note in the files of Colonial NHP.) It is possible too that some of the bricks from the old chimney stacks were used in the restoration of the Thomas Pate House in Yorktown. Hatch, Thomas Pate House and Lot 42, p. 37.

the moulding in the house has been torn out--sold it is reported to some one building a home in Gloucester Co. The floors were said to be giving away in places, the blinds had disappeared, the window glass was all gone, the doors were missing, and the plastering had fallen in places, but the part of the house which remained intact seemed to be in an excellent state of preservation."¹² This last thought seemingly was a poor choice of words. Too much was gone, and the ravages of time and man had done their work. The formal demise of the old structure was at hand. Considered unsafe and a potential fire hazard, it was ordered to be demolished.¹³

By 1932 nostalgia had set in, and this was described by a young National Park Service Historian stationed in Colonial National Historical Park, Elbert Cox:¹⁴

To the oldest among the natives of Yorktown and vicinity, mention of Bellfield still brings to mind vivid pictures of a typical ante-bellum plantation. An old negro who works on the Navy Mine Depot reservation described quite volubly the two-story frame house that once stood on the brick foundations which, though almost hidden by underbrush, still can be detected above the ground. Likewise, the locations of the kitchen, stable, overseer's quarters, smoke-house,

12. Herndon, "The Stories of Bellfield and Edward Digges," p. 17, quoting from the Alexandria (Va.) Gazette for February 26, 1926.

13. Herndon, "The Stories of Bellfield," p. 18. Of this Herndon writes: "As the house was of frame construction it was considered a potential fire hazard, and was, therefore, razed to the ground by order of the U.S. Navy Department, and therefore, nothing remains now [1950] of the second 'Bellfield' but the foundations."

14. "Bellfield, Ancient Seat of Governor Digges," in Historical Notes, a mimeographed publication by Colonial NHP, 1, No. 2 (March-April 1932), p. 9.

garden yard, and slave quarters are remembered by him; but the brick-lined well adjacent is a foreign note--when he was . . . little . . . he carried water from the spring.

It is the physical picture alluded to here that John W. Herndon sought to reduce to sketch form in 1950.¹⁵ This actually represents the last stage of the plantation. On this plat plan, Herndon makes no attempt to deal with the earlier layout of Bellfield, nor to show the Edward Digges development that preceded it, except in the case of the cemetery. He does, however, speculate a good deal on the nature of the appearance of the Edward Digges House and its inside room arrangement.¹⁶ His bases were chiefly the archeological findings, which he knew in part, and the inventory of Elizabeth Digges taken in 1692. As for the Edward Digges dependencies, he summarizes only briefly, though obviously being guided by physical evidence of the later development and the recollections of "old timers."¹⁷

15. See Illustration No. 12, from his "The Stories of Bellfield and Edward Digges," p. 14.

16. Ibid., pp. 13-14. See Illustrations Nos. 9, 10, and 11. Though his architectural interpretations seem unconvincing and his room arrangement and sizes do not conform to the orientation of the foundations that have been excavated, his could be a useful analysis, a first analysis though it be. The kitchen he placed: (1) in the "Sellar," (2) in a one story "leanto" adjoining "Ye Back Roome against ye large Roome," (3) in a "'shed room' attached to the house, or a short distance therefrom," or (4) "in a separate building a short distance from the back door." Ibid., pp. 8-9.

17. "The stables, barns and other necessary outhouses were probably located in the 'Old Corral,' while a 'dairy house' was probably built over the 'Spring,' near which were probably the quarters for the Negroes employed on the Estate. The brick-lined 'Well' close to the manor house probably furnished the drinking water, and other water used in the house." Ibid., p. 10.

Commander Miles wrote in 1925 of the Digges tombs among the decaying remains of the Bellfield home site: "The burying ground, a short walk from the [last] house, holds well-marked graves."¹⁸ Likely he referred here to a sound condition. Such evidently had been the state earlier as a photograph published in 1906 indicates. From the tombs at that date an open, treeless field stretched to the York River. These old tombs have long been recognized landmarks and the "Bellefield Cemetery" is duly recognized in the Historic American Buildings Survey.¹⁹ They were restored in 1966 after vandal damage and are now again in sound condition and available to visitors much as originally placed; but little else marks the site of the Edward Digges Plantation, Bellfield Estate.

18. "Naval Mine Depot," p. 7.

19. See Advisory List to the National Register of Historic Places 1962 (U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Washington, D.C.), p. 298.

APPENDIX I

Bellfield Tombs and Burials

There are four restored tombs in the Digges burial ground at the "E.D. Plantation." The inscription on each of them follows:¹

A. Edward Digges (1621-1675):

S

To the memory of

EDWARD DIGGS ESQr

Sonne of Sr Dudley Diggs of Chilham in Kent Knt & Bart

Master of the Rolls in the Reigne of K. Charles the fyrst

He departed this life the 15th of March 1674/5 in the LV yeare of his age, One of his Majtys Counceil for this his Colonie of

VIRGINIA

A Gentleman of most comendable parts and

Ingenuity the onely Introducer and promoter

of the SILK Manufacture in this Colonie

1. These, difficult to read now, were taken from typescripts and chalked photographs made in 1937 and 1938. The photographs are Colonial NHP Nos. 6379 (Edward), 6097 (Susannah), 6096 (Dudley), and 6380 (Cole). The Edward Digges inscription is also reproduced in The Virginia Magazine of History and Biography, LXV (1957), between pages 56-57 in an article on "Sericulture in Virginia" by Charles E. Hatch, Jr. All are also in J.L. Hall, "Ancient Epitaphs and Inscriptions in York and James City Counties, Va.," Collections of the Virginia Historical Society, New Series, XI (1892), 107-09.

And in euery thing else a pattern worthy
of all Pious Imitation He had issue 6 sonnes
& 7 daughters by the body of ELIZABETH
his wife Who of her conjugall affection
hath dedicated to him this Memorial

B. Susannah Digges (circa 1674-1708):

Hic Subrus Inhumatur Corpus
Susannae Digges Filiae Gulielmi
Cole Armigeri
Nec non DudLLei Digges
Armigeri
Conjugis Fidelissimae Quae ex hac
Vita decessit ix ^oKar Decembr Anno
Salutis MDccviii Etatis Suae xxxiv

[Here lies the body of Susannah Digges daughter of William Cole,
gentleman, wife of Dudley Digges, gentleman, most faithful wife, who
died on December 9, 1708, age 34.]

C. Dudley Digges (circa 1665-1711):

[Coat of Arms]
Sub hoc Marmore Requiescit in Pace
DUDLEUS DIGGES Armiger
SUSANNAE DIGGES juxta Deposirae Maritus
Amantissimus
Vir, et Virtute, er Prosapia vere Inclytus

Oui Hujusa Coloniae
Primo Consiliarij Dein ad Auditoris
Dignirarem evectus est.
Obijt omnibus desiderarus xviii Jan
Anno Domi MDCCX
AETar Sua XLV

Justorum Animae in manu Dei Sunt

[Under this marble rests in peace Dudley Digges, gentleman, the
most loving husband of Susannah Digges, buried near him. He was a
man very eminent for virtue and wisdom, who was first raised to the
dignity of Councillor and then Auditor of this Colony. He died, la-
mented by all, the 18th of January, 1710,² in his forty-fifty year.
The souls of the righteous are in the hand of God.]

D. Cole Digges (circa 1691-1744):

This Monument was Erected
by Colonel Edward Digges to ye
Memory of a most indulgent Father
The Hon. Colonel Digges Esqr
who having been many Years one
of his Majestys Hon. Council for this
Colony & sometime President of ye same
Died in the LIII Year of his Age
In the Year of our Lord MDCCXLIV

2. 1711 by present reckoning.

Digges ever to Extreems untaught to bend
 Enjoying Life yet mindful of its end
 In Thee the World an happy meeting saw
 Of Sprightly humour and religious awe
 Chearful not wild facetious yet not mad
 Tho grave not Sour tho Serious never Sad
 Mirth came not called to banish from within
 Intruding pangs of unrepented Sin
 And thy Religion was no Studied art
 To vamish guilt but purifyd the Heart
 What less then a felicity most rare
 Could spring from such a temper & such care
 Now in the City taking great delight
 To Vote new Laws or old interpret right
 Now crowds & Busness questing to receive
 The joys content in Solitude can give
 With equal praise thou Shone among ye Great
 And gracd the humble pleasures of Retreat
 Derived Dignity on evry Scene
 Or tempted or betrayed to Nothing mean
 Whateer of Thee was mean beneath it lies,
 The rest unstaind is claimed by the Skies.

E. In another part of the mansion area (west of the Digges tombs, a short distance inland from the earlier Digges home, and adjacent to the existing brick structure, now believed to have been a burial vault)

were a number of grave stones associated with the McCandlish family.³

Among them were:

1. Mary Mandavill
 Infant Daughter of
 Robt. & Rebecca McCandlish
 Died Augt. 29, 1850
 Age 18 Months

As the sweet flower that scents the morn
 But withers in the rising day:
 Thus lonely was this infants dawn
 Thus swiftly fled its life away.⁴

2. Willie McCandlish:⁵
 Erecte [d]
 in the memor [y]
 Willie
 Son of
 Robert and Reb [ecca]
 McCandl [ish]
 who was born Se [ptember]

3. These are no longer in place.

4. See Illustration No. 19.

5. The inscription given here is from a photograph of a broken stone that was askew at the site. The photograph is unidentified as to source and date but likely dates from 1934. See also Illustration No. 20.

1838

and died Sep [tember]

1845

APPENDIX II

Some Pertinent Inventories, Wills, etc.

A. Elizabeth Digges Inventory¹

(Made of Record on August 24, 1692):

Octobr ye In obedience to an Ordor of Yorke Crt bearing
13th 1691 date ye 24th of Septembr 1691 Wee the subscribers
 did this day meet at ye house of Mrs Eliz: Digges
 late deceased And did Inventory & appraize ye
 deceased's Estate yt was presented before us by
ye Amrs of ye said Estate to ye best of our Judgmtts being first sworne
before Mr Robert Read as followeth (vizt) -

--On the Manner [Manor] plantation--

	lb	S	d
37: Horses, Mares Coultts att 30s apeice and with an other	050:	15:	00
49: head of Cattle att 25s apeice	061:	05:	00
11: Eleven Calves att 10s apeice	005:	10:	00

--In ye Hall parlor--

5: Spannish tables att 6d pr table	001:	10:	00
2: Chests att [two words crossed out]	000:	12:	00
2: Green Carpetts att	000:	10:	00

1. From Deeds, Orders, Wills, No. 9 (1691-1694), pp. 161ff.

	lb	S	d
11: Arrow worke Chaire att	005:	00:	00
1: Imbrodred Couch att	002:	00:	00
2: turkey worke Carpetts att	001:	00:	00
9: turkey worke Chaires	001:	10:	00
1: Couch Ditto att	000:	10:	00
5: pictures att	000:	05:	00
2: pair of Brass Andirons att	000:	02:	06
3: three pair of ould tonges & one old brush	000:	02:	06
1: one Clock att	001:	00:	00
	015:	17:	06

--In A Chest in ye low passage--

36: Dammaske Napkins att	001:	10:	00
9: Ditto table Cloaths, & Cloath for twenty Napkins . .	008:	00:	00
3: Diaper table Cloaths, 3 Doz: Napkins Ditto	004:	18:	00
5: Doz: of flaxen Napkins & four table Cloaths ditto .	002:	10:	00
8: Diaper towells two Course ditto Att	000:	02:	06
3: pair holland sheets & three yd of pillowboard ditto.	002:	10:	00
8: Ells of holland & 1/4 att 3s 6d y Ell	001:	10:	00
8: yards 3/4 of Callico att	001:	00:	00
3: Ells of severall Remnants of lining	000:	12:	00
5: Ells & 1/4 of lining att	000:	02:	06
4: yards of benting att	000:	15:	00
A Chest att	000:	12:	00
	162:	09:	06

--In ye yellow Roome--

	lb	S	d
A Chest of Drawers att	001:	00:	00
1: turkey workt Carpitt att	000:	15:	00
1: One Remmant of worstad tapestry and seven Remnants of silke	000:	10:	00
2: pertia Carpitts att	000:	05:	00
7: ould Chaires with silke coverings att	001:	15:	00
1: Cloath bed with Curtaines & vallanse lined wth yellow silke a silke Counterpain teaster & head peice & one Callico quilt	012:	00:	00
1: Suite of white Curtaines & Counterpane & two red Curtaines.	000:	10:	00
1: fetherbed, bolster, pillows, and blankett one Rugg Counterpaine bedstead	004:	00:	00
2: ould boxes att	000:	01:	00
	020:	11:	00

--In the large Roome against ye yellow Roome--

A Chest of Drawers & fetherbed, bolster, one blankitt & bedstead & three window Curtaines att	004:	10:	00
1: looking glass 2 trunks 1 pr of brass And Irons 1 old brush 1 wood Chair	003:	10:	00
	008:	00:	00
One Gray Mare att	002:	10:	00

--In ye Back Roome agt ye large Roome--

A prell of ould small Bookes att	002:	10:	00
One large Bible	001:	00:	00
3: Other old large bookes att	001:	10:	00
1: spice box att	000:	03:	00

	lb	S	d
1: small pistall at	000:	03:	00
1: prell of old Gallipotts, bottles & phissick	001:	10:	00
2: Red trunks with a Small prell of Habberdash ware . . .	004:	00:	00
1: prell of Earthen ware and glasses att	001:	00:	00
1: prell of small mist ware att	001:	10:	00
1: prell of small painted boxes with some Combs & needles, two pair of small scales & weights, and looking glass	001:	10:	00
1: Ring dyall att	000:	02:	06
2: Casse of Knives att	000:	10:	00
8: goold mourning Rings, one old bodkin	004:	10:	00
1: Diamond Ring & a small stone Ring	020:	00:	00
1: one parell of sea pearls	000:	10:	00
251: Ounces of plate att 5d pr oz: is	062:	15:	00
1: small old table, one old paper box, one old box . . .	000:	05:	00
	302:	09:	00
1: old fether bed and boulster, one old blankitt, one Rugg 3 Iron Curtaine Rods, 3 old Callico Curtaines 3 pillows, & 2 table basketts att	004:	00:	00
--In ye Red Roome--			
1: fether bed bolster two pillowes, one blankitt, Counterpaine, Curtaines, one holland Quilt & Carpitt of Driggitt a pr small Iron doggs 2 Chaires & one window curtaine att	005:	00:	00
--In the Garrette--			
3: large Rugg, one Duffill blankitt, one small Canvis bagg two new Chests one old Ditto	003:	00:	00

	lb	S	d
1: brasse mortar & pestill 5 small pictures, 1 brasse fire shovel, 2 wooden platters, 1 hair roop, 1 remmant of Canvis, 2 old Cushions, 2 old Ruggs one blankitt, one old quilt att	002:	10:	00
In A Chest 4 Cotton Curtaines, 4 diffill ditto, 1: old blankitt 3 old pillows one old Napkin press & 3 Chests	002:	00:	00
5: ould trunks with locks & keys, 2 old ditto, old Chests, 2 old boxes	001:	15:	00
2 ould fetherbeds and two bolsters and blankett att . . .	001:	15:	00
	011:	00:	00
--In the Back Roome--			
1: Bedstead two fetherbeds, one boulster 2 pillows one pr of small doggs one pr of fire tongs, one Small Chest of drawers 2 wooden Chairs 2 lethin ditto, one small Table one brush	006:	00:	00
13: pr of old sheets, 8 old pillow bears 7 old Towills, 3 doz: old flaxen napkins, 9 old Table cloths ditto 26 old Diaper Napkins and two old ditto Table Cloths att	004:	05:	00
1: old fether bed & boulster one bolster, one blankitt, one Rugg, one old Table, one old chaire att	002:	10:	00
	335:	04:	00
--Indian Feild Quarter--			
3 Iron potts, one pr pot racks & hookes, one Sifter att. .	001:	00:	00
19 head Cattle & Calves att 25d a poor one with another . .	023:	15:	00
--Negroes--			
Old Bess	000:	10:	00
Jeffrey	028:	00:	00
Charles	023:	00:	00
Fish	018:	00:	00

	lb	S	d
Jack	027:	00:	00
Margrett and her child Robin	027:	00:	00
Judy	016:	00:	00
Kate	016:	00:	00
Little Frank	020:	00:	00
Betty	020:	00:	00
George	020:	00:	00
Alice	010:	00:	00
--New ground Quarter--			
One Iron pott att	000:	08:	00
12: Cows 3 steers 1 bull 7 Calves att	023:	10:	00
--Negroes--			
Jack	025:	00:	00
Dick	021:	00:	00
Peeter	028:	00:	00
Yarry	018:	00:	00
Bridgett	002:	10:	00
--Att ye manner house--			
One Bull, one Cowe	002:	10:	00
--In A Chest in ye Hall--			
18: Woodden trenchers, 3 straining sifters, 5 wooden strainers, 1 Small bowl ditto one Rouling pin, one Rubbing brush 2 small wooden strainers att . .	000:	05:	00
1: old Side Saddle and Cover att	000:	05:	00
8: Tinn pans & a prell of old tinn ware	000:	10:	00

	lb	S	d
3: Old Copper potts att	000:	03:	00
2: Doz. & 1/2 of pewter plates, 4 Sausers Occonny sponnes att	001:	10:	00
215 lb of pewter att 10d pr pound is	008:	19:	04
A prcell of old pewter	002:	00:	00
	719:	19:	04
--In the Sellar--			
12: Doz. of Quart glass bottles 6 Earthen potts, one Stone mortar & wooden pettill, and A parcell of old Lumber att	001:	15:	00
--In the Kitching--			
One Still at	001:	05:	00
One warming pan & a Small parcell of ould brass att	000:	10:	00
One ould Gridiron 7 Spits 3 Iron potts & pott hookes & 2 pr pottracks, one pr of Rack and Irons, 3 old frying pans, one pr old tongs, one fire shovel, one pr old back Racks, one Nutmeg Grater	003:	05:	00
3: brass Stands Two Kettles ditto, one skellitt ditto with an Iron frame one Small Skellitt gth 96f att .	003:	10:	00
1: old Copper att	002:	10:	00
1: large ditto Att	006:	10:	00
2: small ditto at	004:	10:	00
1: old chest & one large Iron pott	001:	00:	00
1: Grindstone	000:	05:	00
	022:	05:	00
--Att the Home Quarter--			
1: Iron pott & one Iron pestill att	000:	08:	00

--Negroes--

	lb	S	d
Capt Hobbs	010:	00:	00
Oakly	026:	00:	00
Billy	028:	00:	00
Tom Ayres	028:	00:	00
Harry	026:	00:	00
Robin	026:	00:	00
Betty & her Child	027:	00:	00
Jane and her Child	027:	00:	00
Old Bess	018:	00:	00
Nedd	020:	00:	00
Mary	024:	00:	00
Kate, Indian	015:	00:	00
Sere	010:	00:	00
Michael	006:	00:	00
Old Frank	026:	00:	00
Nanny	026:	00:	00
	1087:	07:	04

One pr of Small Hand Milstones	015:	00:	00
A prcell of Old Iron	001:	10:	00
3 plasterers Trowells & a pr cell of Hindges	001:	00:	00

--An Account of Ye broak Horses--

1: Horse called Manse	000:	15:	00
1: one Mare called Jewell	001:	05:	00

lb S d

1: Mare and Coult One horse named Robin	006:	00:	00
1 prospective glass	000:	00:	08
	1098:	13:	00

Tho Barber

Tho Ballard

Charles Hansford

To Severall goods not appraised charged as by ye			
envoyce that came with them	004:	05:	10
	1102:	18:	10

To severall hhds of Tobacco wt neat 336091
The Cropp of Indian Corne ye quantity unknown but Credit
shall be given.

Yorke County August ye 24th 1692, prsented
in Cort pr Coll Willm Diggs & Mr Dudley Diggs ye Admrs of their
Deceased mother's Estate And was Ordord to be comitted to Record
which is accordingly prformed

Pr Willm Sedgwicke Cl Cur

APPENDIX II-B

Division of Estate of ELIZABETH DIGGS¹

(made of record on August 24, 1693)

	lb	S	d
Capt Pages 1/4 Prte of ye Estate divided this 11th of Xbr 1691 .			
26 head Cattle	29:	02:	06:
1/4 prte plate	12:	02:	02:1/4
1/4 prte horses and Mares	26:	10:	00:
In the Hall and parlor	15:	17:	06:
In the Back Roome	02:	10:	00:
Att ye Indian feild	01:	00:	00:
In ye sellar	01:	15:	00:
One Large Copper	06:	00:	00:

--Negroes--

Charles and Judy	39:	00:	00:
Tom Fish and Kate	34:	00:	00:
	157:	17:	02:1/4

the Divission Coll: Willm Diggs of goods Xbr 11th 1691

26 head of Cattle	29:	02:	06:
Goods in the Red Roome	05:	00:	00:

1. Deeds, Orders, Wills, No. 9, p. 249ff.

lb S d

In ye Garratt	11:	00:	00:
In a Chest in ye Hall	13:	12:	04:

--Negroes--

Oaky, Betty and Child	53:	00:	00:
Ned and Kate	35:	00:	00:
to 1/2 prte plate	12:	02:	02:1/4
to 1/4 prte Horses and Mares	16:	10:	00:
	175:	07:	00:1/4

	lb	S	d:q
Xbr 11th 1691 Mr Dudley Diggs			
26 head Cattle	29:	02:	06:
1/4 prte plate	12:	02:	02:1/4
1/4 prte Horses and Mares	16:	10:	00:
In ye Yellow Roome	20:	11:	00:
A powder Still	01:	05:	00:
Warming pan & prell of old brass	00:	10:	00:
the 1/3 artickles in ye Kitching	03:	05:	00:
two small Coppers	04:	00:	00:

--Negroes--

Capt Hobbs	10:	00:	00:
Sue and Michael	16:	00:	00:
Harry Joan and Child	53:	00:	00:
	166:	05:	08:1/4

	lb	S	d:q
Xbr 11th 1691 Mr Edwd Diggs			
26 head Cattle	29:	02:	06:

	lb	S	d:q
1/4 prte plate	12:	02:	02:1/4
1/2 prte Horses and Mares	16:	10:	00:
In a Roome next ye yellow Roome	08:	00:	00:
In ye back Roome agt ye large Roome	13:	01:	00:
--the new grounds--			
one Iron pott	00:	08:	00:
in ye Kitching ye 4th Artickle	03:	10:	00:
one old Chest, and Iron potte one Grindstone	01:	05:	00:
one Iron pott & pestell	00:	08:	00:
one pre hand Milstones	00:	15:	00:
Prell old Iron	01:	10:	00:
three plasterers trowells and a prell Hindges	01:	00:	00:
--Negroes--			
Dirk, Bridgett & Yarrow	41:	10:	00:
Mary and Nanny	50:	00:	10:
	179:	01:	08:1/4
Coll Willm Diggs Dr			
to severall goods & Chattells as Pr Account appes	175:	07:	00:1/4
Pr Contra Cr			
By his 1/4 prte of ye Estate appraized	168:	05:	02:
1/4 and by a former Acct	005:	13:	04:
	173:	18:	06:
Due to ye Estate	001:	08:	00:1/4
	175:	07:	00:1/4

	lb	S	d:q
Mr Dudley Diggs Dr			
to severall goods & Chattells as pr Account			
Appraized	166:	05:	08:1/4
Ballance due	001:	19:	06
	168:	05:	02:
Pr Contra Cr			
By his 1/4 prte of the Estate Appraized	168:	05:	02:1/4
Mr Edward Diggs Dr			
to severall goods & Chattells as pr Account			
Appraized	179:	01:	08:1/4
Pr Contra Cr			
By his 1/4 prte of the Estate appraized	168:	05:	02:1/4
Due to Ballance	010:	16:	06:
	179:	01:	08:1/4
Capt Page Dr			
to severall goods & Chattells as pr Account			
Appraized	157:	17:	02:1/4
Due to ballance	010:	08:	00:
	168:	05:	02:1/4
Dr Contra Cr			
By his 1/4 prte of the Estate Appraized	168:	05:	02:1/4
In Obedience to an Ordor of Yorke County Crt			
bearing oath ye 24th day of November 1691 Wee the subscribers			
have this day accordingly met and have According to ye best of			
our Judgmtt advised all such goods & Chattells of the Estate of			
ye Deceased Mrs Elizabeth Diggs as hath been brought before us			

by Coll: Willm Diggs and Mr Dudley Diggs Admrs & Witness our hands
this 10th day of Decembr Anno 1691

Joseph Ring

Tho: Barbar

Martin Gardner

Yorke County August ye 24th 1693

Presented in Cort And is Recorded Att ye Request of Coll Willm
And Major Dudley Diggs

Pr Willm Sedgwicke Cl Cur

APPENDIX II-C

Will of WILLIAM DIGGS¹-1694 (1698)

IN THE NAME OF GOD AMEN I Willm Diggs of Charles County In the
province of Maryland being of perfect & sound minde & possessed of
ye uncertainty of this mortal life do make this for soe much as it
therein contained this last Will and Testament, revoking & makeing
voyd all former Wills & Testaments by me made
Imprimis I bequeath my soul unto my [torn] Christ through whose
meritt I hope for [torn] my Body unto ye Earth be buried in decent
form [torn] the discretion of my Extors hereinafter named [torn]
what temporall Estate God Almighty hath blessed me for so much as
is herein mentioned I give & bequeath in manner and form following
I give & bequeath unto my Sonn Charles Diggs all that plantacon where-
in I now dwell called Diggs Plantacon Charles County together with
the addition thereunto by me made called Diggs Addition And ye land
formerly belonging to Sir John Ould Castle being two hundred and
odd acres escheated to ye Rt Honorable ye Lord Baltimore & by him
granted unto me TO HAVE AND TO HOLD the said two farms or tracts
containing Six hundred and sixty-seven acres and the latter two

1. Deeds, Orders, Wills, No. 11 (1698-1702), p. 51.

hundred and odd acres after ye decease of my dear wife Eliz: Diggs to whome I bequeath ye same during her natural life to him ye heires of his body lawfully begotten. And for want of such heirs to my son Dudley Digges & to the heires of his body lawfully begotten. And for want of such heires to my son John Digges & to the heires of his body lawfully begotten. And for want of such issue to my son Nicholas Diggs And ye heires of his body lawfully begotten. And for want of such heires to my son Edward Digges and his heirs forever. Item I give & bequeath unto my Son Willm Diggs all ye tract of land called Baltimores Guift lying in St Marys County with [torn] Addition thereunto by me made being about one [torn] fifteen Acres TO HAVE & TO HOLD ye Same unto him and his [torn] forever. Item I give and bequeath unto my Sonns [torn] and John Diggs all yt tract of land called [torn] in (. . .) River in Baltimore County to be equally divided between them and their heires for [torn] to the same containing one thousand acres Item I give and bequeath unto my Sonn Nicholas Diggs all ye tract of land called Eliz: Delight in Charles County containing one thousand acres of land to have and to hold to him and his heires forever Item my Will and desire is that my plantacon in Yorke River in Collony of Virginia with ye Mill and hands thereon together with the increase shall be managed & made use of by my Ex [torn] made to the best advantage that their skill [torn] & to which ye raising of portions for my dau [torn] Eliz: Ann & Mary And ye meat produced thereon to be att the discretion of my Said Executor disposed of towards the advancement

& preferment of my Said Daughters or Such of them as Shall live to be married or come to ye age aforesaid. The said plantacon to go to my Sonn Edward Diggs & his heires And ye hands and stock which att yt time shall be thereon to be equally divided between such of my Sonns as shall be then living Item I give & bequeath unto my dear wife my Negro woman called Mary and ye twelve Negroes brought with me of Virga (vizt) one man called Jeffrey his wife Peg and their Daughter Bess George their Sonn & two other little boys being likewise their Children one Mollatta woman called Nanny & her child one man called Robin and a woman called Bess his wife one Mollatto man called Thomas Evers and one man called Billy toward her and her younger Childrens maintenance And to be disposed of as shee thinks fitt eyther in her life time by acts comited or by her Will amongst her Children or Such of them as she shall think fitt I do hereby nominate & appoint my Said dear wife And my Said Sonn Edward Diggs to be ye Exor [torn] this my Will & Testament declared [torn] this 19th day of S [torn] ptemb [torn] and six hundred ninety four.

Willm [torn] Seal

Signed Sealed & declared in the presence of us

Charles Carroll

Henry Wharton

Willm Browne his mark

Att A Cort held for Yorke County Ma [torn] 24th 1698. The above Will

was then produced in [torn] together with ye letter of Admrcon (. . .)
[torn] Mr Edward Digges one of ye Executors therein named on whose re-
quest ye same is admitted to Record

Test

Willm Sedgwick

C1 Cur

APPENDIX II-D

Appraisal of Estate of WILLIAM DIGGS
in York County¹-1698 (1698)

Pursuant to an order of Yorke County Crt. bearing date the 24th
day of May, 1698 directed to us ye Subscribers to Appraise ye Estate
of Collo William Diggs Dect which accordingly we did & is as followeth -

	lb	S	d
13 Cows & Calves at 40s pr head	26:	00:	00
2 Steare about 4 year old each at 40s [torn]	00:	00:	00
4 ditto about 3 year old each at 1 lb 15s	07:	00:	00
1 old bull at	02:	00:	00
2 heifers at 2 year old each at 20s	02:	00:	00
4 Yearlings at 20s each	04:	00:	00
4 barron Cows at 1 lb 15s each	07:	00:	00
3 buls of 2 year old each at 15s	02:	05:	00
3 small heifers at 1 lb 5s pr each	03:	15:	00

Out Lying Cattle

4 old Cowes at 1 lb 10s each	06:	00:	00
2 of 2 year old [torn]	01:	10:	00

1. Deeds, Orders, Wills, No. 11 p. 229.

	1b S d
3 yearlings [torn] young Calves at 14s	01: 16: 00
1 young heifer & Calfe at	<u>01: 10: 00</u>
	69: 16: 00

Negroes

1 Old Negro Dirk at	15: 00: 00
1 Old Negro Oakey at	21: 00: 00
1 Young Negro Ned at	28: 00: 00
1 Negro Woman & Sucking Child	22: 00: 00
1 old Negro Woman Yarro at	06: 00: 00
1 Negro Woman Mary & Child at	27: 00: 00
1 Negro girle Kate at	26: 00: 00
1 Negro boy billey & girle betty at	<u>13: 00: 00</u>
	227: 16: 00
2 old Horses not knowne by some of ye Appraisers at .	5: 00: 00
1 old Mare at	1: 10: 00
1 old Copper at	<u>1: 00: 00</u>
	<u>234: 16: 00</u>

Edward Diggs

Willm Buckner

Tho: Collier

Robt Pettere

Sworne Before me May ye 24th 1698

Tho. Ballard

Att at Cort for Yorke County September ye 25th 1699

Pr adjournmt from July Cort ye 24th last past. The Within Inventory was

then Sworne to by the Within Named Edward Digges and according to
Order is Recorded

Test

Willm Sedgwick

Cl Cur

APPENDIX II-E

Will of DUDLEY DIGGES¹-1711 (1711)

January the 13th 1710

Digge's
Will

I DUDLEY DIGGS being Sick & weak but in Perfect Sence & Memory
do make this my last will as follows IMPRIMIS I do give to my
daughter Eliza Diggs the Sum of two thousand Pounds Sterl to be paid
her at the age of twenty one or day of marryage
Item I do give to my Son Edward Diggs the Sum of two thousand pounds
Sterl to be paid at the age of twenty one
Item I do give to my Son Dudley Diggs the Sum of two thousand pounds
Sterl to be paid at the age of twenty one
If any should dye in their minoritys their Shares to be Equally divided
with Survivors
All the Rest of my Estate both reall & Personall Consisting of Debts
mony Land Negroes furniture lying in England or Elsewhere I do give
to my Son Cole Digges & his heirs forever & my desire is the Legacies

1. Orders, Wills, &c, No. 14, p. 69. Though noted as January 13, 1710,
by present reckoning it is January 13, 1711. The year could have been
(and often was until 1753 and the calendar change) given as 1710/11.

given remain in the hands of my Son Cole Digges & my Son Cole Digges
not to give Security to the Court
Item I do Constitute My Son Cole Digges the Sole Excr & adminr of this
my last will & Testament
Item I do give to Mrs Whitby to buy her mourning the Sum of ten pounds
Sterl
Item I do give to Mrs Young the Sum of ten pounds Sterl
Item I do give to Mr Tillyard the Sum of ten pounds Sterl

Dudley Digges Seal

Signed Sealed & delivered)

in the presence of -)

Arthur Tillyard

Charles Barrett

John Marshall

At a Court held for York County February the 20th 1710
The within will & Testamt of Dudley Digges Esqr was presented in
Court by Cole Digges the Execr who made Oath thereto & the Same
being proved by the oaths of Arthur Tillyard & John Marshall was
admitted to Record & Probate thereof granted to the sd Execr ac-
cordingly

Test Phi: Lightfoot Cl Cur

At a Court held for York County March the 19th 1710
The within Will & Testamt of Dudley Diggs Esqr was also proved by
the Oaths of Charles Barrett

Test Phi: Lightfoot Cl Cur

Truely Recorded by Phil Lightfoot Cl Cur

APPENDIX II-F

Will of ANN DIGGES¹-1772 (1776)

Ann Digges's) IN THE NAME OF GOD AMEN I Ann Digges widow of the County
Will) of York and Parish of York Hampton being of sound mind
and of perfect Sense and memory do make Ordain Constitute and appoint
this writing to be and to contain my Last Will and Testament thereby
revoking all other Wills heretofore made or supposed to be made by me.
IMPRIMIS my Will and desire is that all my just Debts shall be duly and
justly paid and as to what wordly Goods it hath pleased God to bless
me with I do give and dispose of in the following manner - I give to my
son Cole Digges my Glass Clock and my Glass corner Cupboard I give to
my Son Thomas Digges my large looking Glass which now stands in the draw-
ing Room I give to my daughter Mary Digges my large Black Cabbinet I
give to my daughter Elizabeth Digges my Cedar desk I give to my daughter
Sarah Digges my dressing Table and my Will and desire is that all my
other Estate consisting of money Debts or Houshold Furniture shall be
equally divided among my three daughters Mary, Elizabeth and Sarah, I
do hereby appoint my two Sons Cole Digges and Edward Digges
Executors of this my last Will and Testament IN WITNESS whereof

1. Wills and Inventories, No. 22 (1771-1783), p. 323.

I have hereunto set my hand and Seal this 25th day of May Anno
Domini 1772 -

Signed Sealed and declared to be my)

Last Will and Testament the day and) ANN DIGGES (LS)

year above written in the Presence of)

Thomas Powell -

Thomas Digges -

At a Court held for York County the 19th day of February 1776

This will was proved according to Law by the Oaths of Thomas Powell
and Thomas Digges the witnesses thereto and Ordered to be Recorded
and on the motion of Cole Digges one of the Executors who made Oath
thereto and Together with Thomas Powell his Security entered into
and acknowledged Bond as the Law directs Certificate was granted him
for obtaining a Probat in due form Liberty being reserved for Edward
Digges the other Executor to join in the Probat when he shall think fit - -

Tests

Examd

Thos Everard Cl Cur

APPENDIX II-G

Appraisement of ANNE DIGGES¹

(Recorded on August 19, 1776)

Anne Digges) AN APPRAISEMENT of the Household and Kitchen Furniture
Appraismt) belonging to the Estate of Mrs Anne Digges decd Pr Capt
Goosely, Mr. Richard Brown and Mr George Wilson January
24th 1776 -

2 pr	Sheets @ 30/	3/	0/	0
5 pr	Do @ 25/	6/	5/	0
4 pr	Holland Do @ 65/	13/	0/	0
2	large Table Cloths @ 20/	2/	0/	0
2	Do @ 30/	3/	0/	0
2	Do @ 35/	3/	10/	0
2	Do @ 35/	3/	10/	0
1	Bed Quilt	3/	0/	0
1	Counterpane	3/	10/	0
1	Do	1/	15/	0
3	Do @ 25/	3/	15/	0
4	barr'd Virginia Do @ 15/	3/	0/	0
3	Do Do @ 15/	2/	5/	0

1. Wills and Inventories, No. 22 (1771-1783), pp. 354ff.

7	Holland pillow Cases	1/	0/	0
4	Coarse Do	0/	10/	0
5	Huckt Towels	0/	12/	6
5	Diaper Do	0/	12/	6
5	Do Napkins	1/	0/	0
4	Damask Do	0/	6/	0
1	Suit purple Virginia Curtains	6/	0/	0
1	Do Blue and White	4/	0/	0
1	Do Callico	6/	0/	0
1	1/2 doz: Queens China plates 9/5 Do dishes & Butter Boat 11/	1/	0/	0
1	plate Basket	0/	1/	6
6	China Dishes	2/	0/	0
1	Doz: China plates	1/	0/	0
2	China Bowls	0/	3/	6
2	China Tart pans, 6 Earthen Do 8 Custard Cups, 4 Scollop'd Chells	0/	10/	0
1	lb Brown Thread	0/	5/	0
2	doz: new hard Mettal plates	3/	10/	0
1	doz: Do	0/	17/	6
10	old Do	0/	7/	6
10	hard Mettal Dishes	2/	10/	0
1	pewter pudding Dish	0/	10/	0
2	Do Basons	0/	6/	0
12	deep pewter Dishes	3/	12/	0
6	pewter dishes & 1 fish Strainer	1/	5/	0
1	pewter Tureen	0/	7/	6

10 Candle moulds	0/ 12/ 6
1 Tin Cullendar	0/ 2/ 6
3 pr Blankets	3/ 0/ 0
3 Old Do	0/ 18/ 0
5 Virginia Cloth Blankets @ 6/	1/ 10/ 0
8 Black Chairs @ 3/	1/ 4/ 0
3 Loaves Ddle Sugar 32 1/2 lb @ 2/6	4/ 1/ 3
15 Leather Bottom'd Chairs @ 5/	3/ 15/ 0
6 Flag Bottom'd Chairs	0/ 10/ 0
1 Large Walnut Table	3/ 0/ 0
1 Smaller Do	0/ 15/ 0
1 Marble Slab	5/ 0/ 0
1 China Butter plate	0/ 2/ 0
44 yds Oznabrigs @ 1/8 Pr yd	3/ 13/ 4
1 Cloath's Basket	0/ 3/ 9
1 Tin Coffee pot	0/ 1/ 6
2 Warming pans	0/ 10/ 0
1 Small Bell mettal Skillet	0/ 2/ 0
10 Buck Knives & Forks 12 Do 7 Do Ivory & Forks	0/ 9/ 3
20 lb Candles @ 1/	1/ 0/ 0
1 Bushel Salt and Bad	0/ 7/ 6
1 Ax	0/ 4/ 6
4 pr Cards	0/ 10/ 9
1 large Bell Mettal Skillet	0/ 10/ 0
A parcel Tin Ware	0/ 15/ 0

3 Stone pans & 1 pipkin	0/ 3/ 0
1 Mariners Compass	0/ 6/ 0
1 Box with Sundry Medicines	2/ 0/ 0
1 pr large Scales and Weights	0/ 7/ 6
1 Close Stool Chair	0/ 5/ 0
2 Marble Mortars & pestle	1/ 0/ 0
3 pr Steelyards	0/ 10/ 0
1 pr Garden Shares	0/ 3/ 0
1 Bed pan	0/ 4/ 0
3 Chamber pots	0/ 3/ 9
1 Sifter 1/6 1 Search 2/6	0/ 4/ 0
5 Hilling Hoes	1/ 0/ 0
1 Box Iron & Heaters	0/ 4/ 6
5 Reap Hooks 2/6 1 Tenor Fiddle 20/	1/ 2/ 6
1 pr End Irons	0/ 2/ 6
83 1/2 lb Brown Sugar @ 7d 1/2 pr lb	2/ 12/ 2 1/4
2 pots	0/ 12/ 0
1 Large Chest	1/ 10/ 0
2 Old Do	0/ 10/ 0
1 pr Flatt Irons 5/ 1 Key Box 10/	0/ 15/ 0
1 Suit Musketre Curtains	0/ 7/ 6
1 Bed f8 (2 Do f20) 3 Do f21) 1 Do f4) 1 Do f7	60/ 0/ 0
1 Virginia Cloth Carpet	1/ 5/ 0
1 pot Butter (Gross) 35 1/2 lb @ 9d 10 lb dedd for Wt of pot & 5/ allowd for the pot	1/ 4/ 1 1/2
1 pr Large Money Scales & Weights 1 pr Small Do	2/ 0/ 0

1 wired Safe	3/	0/	0
1 Cloath's press	1/	0/	0
1 Butter Cup	0/	0/	7 1/2
56 Volumes Books &c	5/	0/	0
1 Backgammon table	0/	2/	6
1 Arm'd Chair	0/	10/	0
1 Corner Cupboard	0/	10/	0
1 Bushel peck & pottle	0/	10/	0
1 Bass Viol	2/	0/	0
1 Looking Glass	1/	5/	0
1 dressing Do	0/	12/	6
1 Queens China Tureen	0/	6/	0
6 Cups, 3 Bowls, 1 Teapot	0/	6/	0
4 Wine & Tumbler Glasses	0/	3/	6
Physick	1/	10/	0
1 Mahogany Teaboard	0/	6/	0
1 Carboy	0/	5/	0
6 Doz: Quart Bottles	0/	18/	0
1 Searce	0/	2/	6
3 Candle Sticks, Snuffers	0/	10/	0
2 large Jarrs	1/	0/	0
4 pots Wt Lard 10/ 50 lb Lard @ 6d Pr lb	1/	15/	0
3 Stone pots & a jug	0/	12/	0
Tea Kettle & Trivet	0/	12/	6
1 Large Copper fish Kettle	0/	15/	0

1 Frying pan and 2 Grid Irons	0/	10/	0
3 Chamber pots	0/	1/ 10	1/2
1 Cold Still	1/	10/	0
2 flatt Irons	0/	2/	0
2 Spits & Spit Racks	1/	10/	0
2 pr pot hooks & Racks	0/	10/	0
1 Small Square Table	0/	12/	6
1 Old Chest & pail 2 Bird Cages	0/	8/	0
1 Copper Kettle	0/	15/	0
1 Spy Glass	0/	7/	6
1 Iron Mortar	1/	1/	6
2 Large Iron pots, 1 Small Do	1/	0/	0
1 Lot of Baskets	0/	5/	0
1 pr large end Irons	0/	10/	0
1 Spinning Wheel	0/	7/	6
2 Flower tubs	0/	10/	0
3 Waiters	0/	2/	6
1 Barrel with Molasses @ 2/6 Pr Gallon			
A parcel Old Iron @ 2d pr lb			
2 Churns	0/	3/	0
1 Sorrel Horse	12/	10/	0
1 Chariot	20/	0/	0
17 Head of Cattle	20/	0/	0
35 1/4 Bushels Wheat @ 3/ Pr Bushel	5/	5/	9
	£273/	0/	1-3/4

York Jany 31st 1776 We the Subscribers (first duly Sworn) met and
appraised in Current Money the foregoing Articles, Estate of Mrs
Anne Digges decd, at the rate prefix'd thereto

George Wilson
W. Goosley
Richd Browne

Returned into York County Court the 19th day of August 1776 and
ordered to be Recorded

Teste
Thos Everard Cl Cur

Examd

APPENDIX II-H

Inventory and Appraisement of WILLIAM WALLER¹-1799 (1799)

Wm Waller's) INVENTORY AND APPRAISEMENT of the Estate of William
Apprt) Waller decd taken at Belle-field the 27th day of
April 1799

NEGROES	Lewis	90/	0/	0
Mary and her 3 children, Hubbard, Ally & Maria	150/	0/	0	
Charles	60/	0/	0	
Patsey	60/	0/	0	
Peyton £50 Lyddia £30 Jacob £20 Grace & Betty twins £20	120/	0/	0	
Barbara & her Children Alvira, Lavinia & Josiah	100/	0/	0	
Phillis £40 Rose £50 Hannah £45 Jem £25 Dorcas £15.	175/	0/	0	
Hannah £60 Oliver £45 Daniel £25 Julius £20 Tom £10	160/	0/	0	
Edy £40 Wilson £40 Fanny £40	120/	0/	0	
Tabb and Child Monay	60/	0/	0	
(Molly	70/	0/	0	
Girls (Dinah	70/	0/	0	
(Jemima	60/	0/	0	

1. Wills and Inventories, No. 23 (1783-1811), p. 531.

(Barnet	60/	0/	0
(Harry	60/	0/	0
Boys (Godfrey	60/	0/	0
(Billy	40/	0/	0
(Roger	60/	0/	0
(Polydore	70/	0/	0
(Cato	60/	0/	0
Fellows (Jimmy	50/	0/	0
(Gilbert	80/	0/	0
(Sam	80/	0/	0
Bit £60 Frank £70 Rody & Fleming £40 Peggy £30 Joanna £15 Jeffry £5	220/	0/	0
Boy Claiborne	60/	0/	0
Nancy & child Rachell	80/	0/	0
Ally	75/	0/	0
Cate	40/	0/	0
Eve £60 child Charles £30	90/	0/	0
In the House			
5 black walnut chairs with Green Bottoms	2/	10/	0
2 Card Tables, 1 large Carpet 2 Knife Cases & Side board	30/	0/	0
1 Tea Table and Tea-China	3/	0/	0
2 pr And irons with brass fronts	4/	0/	0
2 Pr Tongs and shovels	0/	15/	0
1 black Walnut Side Board	0/	12/	0
1 Passage Carpet	1/	0/	0

1 Mahogany Desk and Book Case	18/	0/	0
1 Mahogany Shaving Box & Razors	0/	15/	0
Parcel of Books different authors	4/	0/	0
1 pr Mahogany Tables	9/	0/	0
8 windsor chairs 20/ 1 Carpet 30/ Fender 15/ 4 waiters 24/	4/	9/	0
Rim & Casters (plated) 48/ plated tea pot 20/	3/	8/	0
7 1/2 oz plate at 7/ money Scales and Weights 12/	26/	13/	6
1 Sett of Table China	18/	0/	0
Plate Warmer 28/ 3 doz Queens China Plates 12/	2/	0/	0
14 dishes of different sorts and sizes	1/	16/	0
1 Tureen 4/ 2 Wash hand Basons 2/ 2 fruit dishes 3/	0/	9/	0
8 Glass Salts 6/ small Glass Salver & 10 Wine Glasses 15/	1/	1/	0
2 Queens China Mugs and 2 Butter Boats 2/6	0/	2/	6
Backgammon tables 7/6 2 Brass Chafing dishes 6/	0/	13/	6
8 Pewter Water plates & 1 doz. Pewter Plates	1/	16/	0
3 Pewter dishes 12/ 7 Queens China Dishes 14/	1/	6/	0
15 Queens China Plates of different Sizes	0/	4/	6
Tin Coffee Pot 2/6 2 pr Candlesticks 12/ 2 pr snuffers 2/	0/	16/	6
Knife box and 1 doz Knives 10/ Water jug 3/	0/	13/	0
6 Beds 6 Bolsters 6 Pillows & 5 Bedsteads	35/	0/	0
5 pr Blankets @ 15/ Pr pr 75/ 5 pr Cotton sheets 60/	6/	15/	0
5 pr Linnen sheets 60/ 8 pillow cases 12/	3/	12/	0
Decanters and Sliders	0/	15/	0
8 white Counterpains £6 4 colour'd ditto £2	8/	0/	0

2 Callico Bed Quilts 30/	4 Damask Table Cloths 48/.	£ 3/	18/	0
4 napkins 15/	Pine Table & Looking Glass 10/.	1/	5/	0
8 Cotton table Cloths £4/16/0	4 bro: Linen do 24/.	6/	0/	0
4 dressing Table Cloths 24/	pr And irons Tongs & Shovel & poker 15/	1/	19/	0
Dressing Table & Glass £4/10	1 Candlestand 10/	5/	0/	0
1 Carpet 24/	1 Small pr Andirons Fender shovel & Tongs 12/	1/	16/	0
1 Tea chest 12/	Candle moulds 8/	1/	0/	0
1 Pine Table		0/	6/	0

At the Stable & Pasture &c

Carriage & Harness £40	Single chair & Harness £8	48/	0/	0
Sorrell Mare in foal by Bedford		60/	0/	0
Sorrell Colt got by Damon		25/	0/	0
Young bay mare by Shakespear		25/	0/	0
2 Bay carriage Horses (old) £25 each		50/	0/	0
4 work horses £50	old Black saddle horse 20/	51/	0/	0
58 old Sheep @ 10/ ea.		29/	0/	0
3 yoke of oxen £36	8 Cows with young Calves £28	64/	0/	0
42 head of grown Cattle £84	22 yearlings 15/ each	£16/10	100/	10/ 0
Painted Tumbril £5	pr old cart wheels 30/ X Cut & Whip saws 60/	9/	10/	0
Grindstones 15/	2 Barshare plows 30/	2/	5/	0
Ox Cart and Chains		6/	10/	0

In the Kitchen Dairy

1 pr andirons 30/	large Iron pot 12/	2 Dutch ovens
12/		2/ 14/ 0

3 Pot racks 15/	small Pestle and Mortar 7/6	frying pan 4/	£ 1/	6/	6
2 Coolers & Pails 12/	16 Butter Pots 36/		2/	8/	0
1 Tea Kettle 5/	Grid Iron 4/6	Tongs & Pestle 10/	0/	19/	6
Bell metal Skillett 6/	5 milk pans 6/	Copper Kettle 40/	2/	12/	0
27 Lambs @ 7/6			10/	2/	6
6 Sows @ 15/ ea.			4/	10/	0
2 Sows and 14/ Pigs			2/	8/	0
4 Barrows 10/ each			2/	0/	0
22 yr old Hogs at 9/ each			9/	18/	0
18 shoats @ 4/ 72/	16 do @ 6/96/		8/	8/	0
1 Boar 18/	3 flax wheels 9/ ea 27/		2/	5/	0
Flax Hackle 30/			1/	10/	0

£3214/ 3/ 0

IN OBEDIENCE to an order of the Court of York County made the 18th day of February last we the subscribers being first sworn have appraised in current money the Slaves and personal Estate of the late Capt Wm Waller as above stated Given under our Hands this 27th day of April 1799

Laurence Gibbons

John Campbell

Robt Gibbons

Returned into York County Court the 17th day of June 1799 and ordered to be recorded

Teste

Ex.

Ro: H: Waller C Y C

APPENDIX II-I

Account of Sales of the Estate of¹

WILLIAM WALLER-1799 (1799)

Wm Waller'x) ACCOUNT OF SALES of the Estate of William Waller
Acct Sales) decd.made at Bellefield in the County of York May
2d 1799

Property sold	Purchasers	L	S	D
Coaches 2 old Carriage Horses and pr	Mrs E. Waller	15	0	0
Harness Painted Tumbrell	Same	5	0	0
5 walnut chairs with Green bottoms . . .	Same	2	10	0
2 Card Tables sideboard large Carpet				
2 Knife Cases	Same	30	0	0
1 Tea Table and tea china	Same	3	0	0
2 pr Andirons with brass fronts	Same	4	0	0
1 black walnut sideboard	Same	0	12	0
Passage Carpet	Same	1	0	0
Mahogany Desk and book case	Same	18	0	0
Parcel of Books	Same	4	0	0
Pr Mahogany Tables	Same	9	0	0

1. Wills and inventories, No. 23, p. 533.

Property sold	Purchasers	L	S	D
8 windsor chairs 20/ 1 Carpet 30/ Fender 15 4 waiters 24/	Same	4	9	0
Rim and Casters 48/ Plated teapot 20/	Same	3	8	0
74 1/2 oz Plate at 7/ Pr oz money scales and weights 12/	Same	26	13	6
1 sett of Table China	Same	18	0	0
Plate Warmer 28/ 3 doz Queens China Plates 12/	Same	2	0	0
14 dishes different sorts and sizes	Same	1	16	0
1 Tureen 2/ 2 wash hand basons 2/ 2 fruit dishes 3/	Same	0	9	0
8 Glass Salts 6/ small Glass Salver & 10 wine Glasses 15/	Same	1	1	0
2 Queen China Mugs and 2 Butter Boats 2/6	Same	0	2	6
Backgammon Tables	W. H. Macon	0	7	6
2 brass chaifing dishes 6/	Mrs E. Waller	0	6	0
8 Pewter W Plates & 1 doz Pewter Plates & 3 P dishes 48/	Same	2	8	0
7 Queens China dishes 14/ 15 Queens China Plates 4/6	Same	0	18	6
Coffee pot 2 pr candlesticks 2 pr snuffers	Same	0	16	6
Knife box 1 doz Knives 10/ water Jug 3/	Same	13	0	0
6 Beds 6 Bolsters 6 Pillows & 5 Bedsteads	Same	35	0	0
5 pr Blankets 75/ 5 pr cotton sheets 60/	Same	6	15	0

Property sold	Purchaser	L	S	D
5 pr Linen sheets 8 pillow cases . .	Mrs E. Waller	3	12	0
12 Counterpains	Same	8	0	0
2 Bed Quilts & 4 Damask table clothes	Same	3	18	0
Decanters and Sliders 15/ 4 Napkins 15/	Same	1	10	0
Pine Table and looking glass	Same	0	10	0
12 Table Cloths	Same	6	0	0
4 dressing table cloths 24/ Pr andirons shovel tongs and poker 15/	Same	1	19	0
Dressing Table and Glass f4/10/0 Candlestick 10/	Mrs E. Waller	5	0	0
1 Carpet 24/ small Andirons Fender Shovel & Tongs 12/	Same	1	16	0
Tea chest and candle moulds 20/ pine Table 6/	Same	1	6	0
2 pr tongs and Shovels	Same	0	15	0
Single chair and Harness	John Campbell	8	15	0
1 Flax wheel	Corbin Griffin	0	4	0
2 young Steers brinded and red . . .	Same	6	5	0
1 Flax wheel	H.W. Lee	0	3	0
1 ditto	Absm Hubbard	0	3	0
Flax Hackle	Wm Haynes	1	5	0
1 4 year old young red steer and black do	Same	9	0	0
2 old steers black and red	Same	10	1	0

Property sold	Purchaser	L	S	D
Sorrell mare in foal by Bedford . .	Colo Macon	90	0	0
Young Mare by Shakespear	Same	33	0	0
7 yearlings 1st choice	Same	14	6	0
7 do 2nd do	Same	10	7	0
7 do 3rd do	Same	7	5	0
Sorrell Colt by Damon	Wm Glieson	28	15	0
2 Young pied steers	W. Chapman	8	3	0
1 red Cow with white face	J. Moore	2	10	0
1 dark red Cow old	H. Hubbard	2	5	0
2 Smallest Steers 1 white Tail deep red 2 year old	Same	5	0	0
1 Small pale red 2 years old	W. Chapman	1	14	0
1 pr old ox Cart wheels	Robt Williams	2	0	0
8 Shoats (Charles Hog pen) 1st choice 6/ each	Same	2	8	0
8 do do 2nd choice	Same	2	0	0
1 pr andirons 30/ large Iron pot 12/ 2 dutch ovens 12/	Wm Waller	2	14	0
3 pot racks 15/ small pestle and Mortar 7/ 6 fryg pan 4/	Same	1	6	6
2 coolers and pails 12/ 16 Butter pots 36/ 1 tea kettle 5/	Same	2	13	0
Grid Iron 4/6 Tongs and Hominy Pestle 10/	Same	14	6	0
Bell Metal Skillett 6/5 Milk pans 6/ Copper Kettle 40/	Same	2	12	0

Property sold	Purchaser	L	S	D
Parcel hogs (Bakers point)	Mrs Waller	6	12	0
2 Sows and 14 pigs	Same	2	8	0
22 year old hogs @ 9/ each Boar 18/	Same	10	16	0
2 Sows Charles's hog pen	John Downy	1	17	0
(not appraised) Stud horse John (Private Sale)	Thos Macon	180	0	0
(Ditto) Medley mare old (do)	G.S. Corbin	65	0	0
		<u>£753</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>6</u>

Returned into York County Court the 17th day of June 1799 and
ordered to be recorded

Teste

Ro: H: Waller C Y C

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APPENDIX III :

The Archeological Record from Bellfield

1934-1935

A. Narrative Reports:

No final, or interim, technical reports for the incomplete
Bellfield excavations of the 1930s seem to have been prepared. Such
reporting as was done is given here having been gleaned from various
early files and more general reports.

1. From Colonial National Historical Park Superintendents' "Monthly Reports":¹

January 1934
(p. 12)

"As soon as weather permits, Mr. Lambert ["Mr.
Gary Lambert, formerly the supervising architect
of the Governor's Palace in Williamsburg . . ."]
and his C. C. C. [Civilian Conservation Corps]
workers will begin studies on the Bellfield and
Ringfield sites, which were the most outstanding
plantations along the York River near Yorktown."

February 1934
(p. 12)

"As soon as the weather permits, Mr. Lambert ex-
pects to make a thorough archeological investigation
of the Bellfield tract."

1. These and other excerpts given here are from scattered materials
in the Park Library.

March 1934
(p. 16)

"C.W.A. Forman Lambert continued his studies at the Bellfield site. The foundations of what was probably the original building at the site were accidentally [sic] discovered by workmen digging trees for transplanting. The evidence of debris in the foundations indicates that the building was destroyed by fire. Many very interesting pieces of hardware, some types of which were entirely new to us, were found in these excavations."

2. Memorandum from Historical Assistant A.G. Lambert (then in charge of the excavations) to Historian Elbert Cox, dated April 6, 1934:

The following concerns work on the above sites during the month of MARCH -

"BELLFIELD"

Approximately four acres of ground surrounding the known foundation of the Diggs' house have been cleared of underbrush. Practically all brick and mortar debris has been removed from area of above house to the basement floor level. No material of any consequence found in debris, due to house having been demolished in recent years.² Foundations of several outbuildings have been partially uncovered but no conclusion reached at this time as to what they may have been. During the past week, the group of men working on the above foundation were assigned temporarily to other duties and this particular work is now at a standstill. The group working in areas surrounding Major Gooch Grave have been transferred to Bellfield and are working near the above foundations on a recent find.

Several days ago my attention was called to a few brick fragments near the surface about one hundred feet from the Diggs burying ground and with little digging we uncovered an early brick foundation, probably 17th century, with twenty-

2. This was the site of the second Digges House.

eight inch walls. One dimension of the building is thirty-four feet, no doubt the width, the length cannot be determined at present. Top of wall is about two feet under present grade and extends to a depth of about four feet to a brick paved basement floor. Remains of area or bulkhead steps have been uncovered; also, small section of what is apparently the foundation of an interior chimney. Layers of charcoal show that the house was destroyed by fire. Some very early and interesting articles have been found, with excellent prospects for further material.

Area surrounding Major Gooch Grave³

The work in this area has been practically completed and little of any consequence found during the past month.

3. Monthly Report of Historical Work for March 1934 by Assistant Park Historian Elbert Cox (pp. 6-7):

Under Mr. Lambert's direction, nearly four acres of ground surrounding the known foundations of the Digg's house were cleared of underbrush during the month. No material of any consequence was found in the debris, due to the fact that the house was demolished in recent years. Foundations of several outbuildings were partially uncovered but so far no conclusions have been reached as to their character or usage. During the past week, the work on these foundations, as well as that around the grave of Major Gooch, has been suspended due to the transfer of the group of men working on these projects to other assignments.

About one hundred feet from the Diggs burying ground a few brick fragments were discovered near the surface and a little digging uncovered an early brick foundation, probably 17th century, with twenty-eight inch walls. One dimension of the building was found to be thirty-four feet and will probably prove to be the width. The length has not yet been determined. The top of the wall is about two feet under present grade and extends to a depth of about four feet to a brick paved basement floor. Remains of what appears to have been bulkhead steps have been uncovered; also, a small section of what is apparently the foundation of an interior chimney. Layers of charcoal indicate that the house was destroyed by fire. Some very early and interesting articles were found on

3. The Gooch Grave is within the confines of the present Yorktown U.S. Coast Guard Reserve Training Center.

the site, and all indications seem to point to the existence of further material to be uncovered.

4. Memorandum to Mr. Cox from Historical Assistant A.G. Lambert on Archeological Work at Bellfield, May 4, 1934:

The foundations of an early Seventeenth Century brick house, thirty-four feet by forty seven feet, have been uncovered and partially explored during the past month. The location of this was mentioned in my last report. This particular foundation is a most interesting and important discovery and will require extensive study and research before we can definitely form our conclusions as to when and by whom the house was built. (Possibly in the early Seventeenth Century by John West.)

After careful study of the research records on "Bellfield," I formed the opinion that an earlier and more pretentious house existed on this site than the so-called Digges house which had been demolished in recent years by the U.S. Navy Mine Depot authorities.

A complete exploration of the grounds will be necessary to reveal the original scheme of buildings, also why a different site was chosen for the later house.

The early house was unquestionably destroyed by fire. This fact is established by the condition of all glass, pottery and iron fragments, together with heavy layers of ashes and charred wood found in the basement.

The exterior foundation walls are twenty-eight thick and laid in Flemish bond. Foundations of the inside chimneys have been uncovered and are sufficiently preserved to explain the first floor plan. Numerous fragments of square brick tile found at the base of the chimneys give evidence of the material used for the fireplace hearths. A vaulted brick drain twenty-four by twenty-six inches, paved with brick, has been uncovered. This drain is in a good state of preservation and runs from the house in an easterly direction toward the York river. Whether the drain served other buildings or could have been used for purposes other than to drain the basement of the main house, will be of interest but cannot be determined until further explorations have been made. The entire basement floor is paved with brick in a fair state of preservation. Excavating has not been carried beyond the exterior walls; we expect, however, within a few days to uncover the entrance step foundations.

Practically all material collected from the debris has suffered principally from the effects of fire. One of the most remarkable finds in view of the house having been destroyed by fire was a small fragment of cloth of silver, or silver brocade, found between two layers of brick. The collection of numerous types of wrought iron hardware will make a most interesting and valuable exhibit, expressing the highest type of craftsmanship in iron work used by the Colonial builders. Several types of moulded brick, and a section of the exterior wall laid in Flemish bond, with all glazed headers and tooled joints gives further evidence that this house was one of the finest in the Colony.

The Park Service photographers have taken pictures of the work in the various stages of excavation.

5. Monthly Report on Historical Work for April 1934 by Assistant Park Historian Elbert Cox:⁴

Mr. Lambert continued excavations at "Bellfield." The foundations of an early seventeenth century brick house, thirty-four feet by forty-seven feet, discovered last month, were given further study. This foundation is a most interesting and important discovery and will require extensive study and research before definite conclusions can be formed as to when and by whom the house was built. It will be particularly interesting to determine, if possible, if this is the house that may have been built by John West, the first patentee of the "Bellfield" property. The discoveries indicate a more pretentious house than the so-called Digges house of recent years, but a complete exploration of the grounds will be necessary to reveal the original scheme of buildings and grounds. The early house was unquestionably destroyed by fire, a fact established by the condition of all glass, pottery, and iron fragments, together with heavy layers of ashes and charred wood found in the basement. The exterior foundation walls are twenty-eight inches thick and laid in Flemish bond. Foundations of the inside chimneys have been uncovered and are sufficiently preserved to explain the first floor plan. Numerous fragments of square brick tile found at the base of the chimneys give evidence of the materials used for the fireplace hearths. A vaulted brick drain twenty-

⁴. This was repeated verbatim in the Superintendent's monthly report for April 1934.

four by twenty-six inches, paved with brick, has been uncovered. This drain is in good state of preservation and runs from the house in an easterly direction toward the York river. Whether the drain served other buildings or could have been used for purpose other than to drain the basement of the main house, will be of interest but cannot be determined until further explorations have been made. The entire basement floor is paved with brick in a fair state of preservation. Excavating has not been carried beyond the exterior walls; it is expected, however, within a few days to uncover the entrance step foundations. Practically all materials collected from the debris has suffered principally from the effects of fire. One of the most remarkable finds in view of the house having been destroyed by fire was a small fragment of cloth of silver, or silver brocade, found between two layers of brick. The collection of numerous types of wrought iron hardware will make a most interesting and valuable exhibit expressing the highest type of craftsmanship in iron work used by the Colonial builders. Several types of moulded brick, and a section of the exterior wall laid in Flemish bond, with all glazed headers and tooled joints gives further evidence that this house was one of the finest in the Colony. The Park Service photographers have taken pictures of the work in the various stages of excavation.

6. From Superintendent's Annual Report:

October 1, 1933 to June 30, 1934 (p. 44):

Bellfield: One of the most interesting projects was the study of the Bellfield site, the Colonial plantation of the Digges family, about four miles above Yorktown on York River. The foundations of the seventeenth century dwelling have been opened. Very unusual specimens of early hardware were found on this site.

7. Superintendent's "Monthly Reports":

July 1934 ". . . archeological work continued on . . .
(p. 13) Bellfield" and at other places in the Park.

August 1934 "Exploratory work was also continued in . . .
(p. 14) Bellfield." (This, in the summer months, presumably was under the direction of Archeologist J.T. Zaharov.)

8. Memorandum from Archeologist H. Summerfield Day to Superintendent

B. Floyd Flickinger, February 1, 1935:

Regarding Conditions of and Recommendations

for Archaeological Work at Bellfield.

In accordance with your request of January 31, I am submitting the following report:

Present Conditions:

1. There are several foundations at Bellfield which have been partially exposed since early last summer, and on which final reports have not been made.
2. These are unprotected and are suffering damage from rain, snow and frost.
3. The excavation has not been carried far enough to permit the making of complete architectural drawings or archaeological notes.
4. Much of the area has been "excavated" by means of test holes.
5. Further exploratory work with narrow parallel trenches has been started within the past few days in new sections.
6. The ground is frozen to a depth of from four to six inches.
7. The group is not only interesting, but of historic importance as the residence of Governor Digges.
8. Numerous foundations, showing different periods of building activity, are worthy of detailed study.

Recommendations:

1. Immediate steps should be taken to prevent further destruction by weather conditions. The foundations can be covered temporarily with canvas or tar paper and a layer of dirt to keep moisture and frost from the brick. Further excavation of the foundations is impossible before the advent of warmer weather and softer ground.
2. Complete excavation of the present foundations should be made as soon as weather and soil conditions permit. Ex-

cavation should not be attempted, however, until an archaeologist can be assigned to supervise the work and until the foreman have been instructed in the proper methods of excavating, recording, and the handling of objects found, in accordance with the plans developed and approved for Jamestown Island.

3. Further exploration work should not be attempted until the present partly exposed areas have been completed. Exploratory digging should be handled as carefully as any other type of excavation and should not be started merely to use men who cannot work along the river in cold weather. (At Jamestown the archaeological crews have been assigned to other work during the period the ground is frozen.) Efficient archaeological technique cannot be employed in frozen soil.

9. From Colonial National Monument:

Report of Historical Division, February 1935 (p. 1):

"On February 11 Mr. Duncan and Archeological Assistant Day visited Bellfield and inspected progress being made there on excavations."

Superintendents' "Monthly Reports":

January 1935 (p. 18) "Also, under Mr. Day's [Junior Archeologist H. Summerfield Day] immediate direction, archeological work at Bellfield was resumed during the month."

February 1935 (p. 20) "Also, under Mr. Day's immediate direction, archeological work continued at Bellfield."

And at this point the record falls silent.

B. Summary Comment on Cultural

(Artifact) Material Excavated at

the "E.D. Plantation" Mansion Site.

in 1934-35¹

(With List of Artifacts)

Artifacts found at Bellfield in the 1930s have been stored at Jamestown for almost twenty years. If a report on the "excavations" was prepared it has not been found in the Jamestown files. No photographs, field notes, drawings, or other data relating to the "dig" are located at Jamestown. Therefore, the only thing [Curator Paul Hudson] could examine were the artifacts. No numbers were placed on the metal ware until the late 1940s, when Dr. Alfred Armstrong and Mr. Ed Katz preserved these specimens. No numbers were placed on the pottery and glass objects until recent date. It appears that no field specimen numbers were used when the artifacts were recovered. The only marking on boxes which held the artifacts were the words: "Found at Bellfield."

Approximately 25% of artifacts recovered are of 17th century origin; perhaps 50% were made in the 18th century; and another 25% were manufactured in the 19th century.

The glass and pottery artifacts are quite revealing. Four Dutch (or English) gin bottle fragments date to the 1625-50 period. Eleven English wine bottle fragments are from bottles made between 1660 and 1690. Fourteen English wine bottle fragments (including an almost complete bottle) are of 18th century origin, circa 1770-1780 period.

1. This summary was the work of Museum Curator J. Paul Hudson of the Colonial NHP under the date of December 12, 1969.

Four wine bottle fragments are 19th century, made in America. Two window pane fragments are of mid-18th century origin. More should have been recovered, or one must conclude that the owner of the house did not have many glazed windows. (Which I believe they did.)

One goblet fragment is unusually attractive--from an English clear glass goblet with opaque white twist stem, c. 1760. Two goblet fragments are pressed glass, probably American, mid-19th century.

An 18th century medicine bottle fragment was found. Other glass recovered includes fragments from an opaque white ("milk glass") bowl, 19th century medicine bottles, and a 19th century drinking glass.

Pottery found runs the gamut from early 17th century tempered Indian ware to late 19th century American-made white ware. In the collection is a fine assortment of 18th century English delftware (11 fragments), mostly blue on white. Two or three of these specimens may have been made in the 17th century.

Salt-glazed stoneware fragments excavated were made in Germany (late 17th and 18th centuries), Virginia (c. 1725), and English (18th century). Nine fragments of attractive English salt-glaze ware (oyster-shell white color) were found. This ware was made between 1740 and 1760.

Six pieces of unusually fine porcelain were found--made in China (4), England (2) and America (1).

The usual utilitarian lead-glazed earthenwares were recovered, types used in Virginia from c. 1650 to the mid-19th century. Most glazes used were light yellow and light brown over a red body. Some fragments were glazed on one side with black manganese glaze. The latter

may have been made in Buckley, Flintshire, or Wales. Most earthenware found was made in England; some 18th century wares were made in Virginia, probably at Yorktown. Most 19th century earthenware vessels were made in America.

Metalware recovered included a fine assortment of hardware--hinges, nails, spikes, keys and pintles--mostly of 18th century manufacture (all hand-wrought). A few specimens of 17th century hand-forged iron objects were found, as well as some cast iron specimens of the 19th century. The more important metalware objects excavated included:

Hinges, nails, spikes, scrap lead, scrap copper, keys, horse gear, buckles, buttons, tools, lock bolts, pintles, padlocks, hooks, hasps, a bayonet, a canteen, knives and forks, a weight, gun barrel, flatiron, pot fragments, and-iron fragment, and fireplace tongs.

Artifacts found at Bellfield reveal to a great extent something about the house itself (building hardware, window glass, etc.) as well as a great deal of information about the people who lived in the house--their pottery, glass, costume accessories, fireplace accessories, tools used, and other facets of interest about their everyday life. Artifacts recovered--especially pottery and glass--belonged to a rather well-to-do upper middle class family. Some utilitarian objects found were, of course, used in the kitchen and outbuildings.

List of Artifacts from Bellfield in Park Collection:

GLASS.

Gin bottle glass fragments.

- Y-4586. Neck and portion of shoulder from Dutch or English gin bottle. From quart size bottle. Neck $7/8$ in. long, 1 in. across top. Fragment 3 in. long. Green color. Circa 1625-50 period.
- Y-4587. Base from small Dutch or English gin bottle; $2-1/8$ in. square at base. Green color. c. 1625-50 period.
- Y-4613. Fragment from side of 17th century Dutch or English gin bottle, $1-1/4$ in. long. Green color.
- Y-4618. Fragment from side of 17th century Dutch or English gin bottle, $1-5/8$ in. long. Green color.

Wine bottle glass fragments.

- Y-4588. Portion of neck from English wine bottle, c. 1665-85 period. Portion found $3-3/4$ in. long, with well-defined string ring. From one-quart size bottle. Glass badly decayed.
- Y-4589. Neck fragment from English wine bottle, $3-1/4$ in. long, with well-defined string rim. Glass has taken on iridescent colors, originally was olive green. From one-quart size bottle. c. 1770-80 period.
- Y-4590. Neck fragment from English wine bottle, $3-1/4$ in. long, with narrow-width string ring. Iridescent colors; glass originally was olive-green. From one-quart size bottle. c. 1770-80 period.
- Y-4591. Neck fragment from English wine bottle, $3-3/8$ in. long, with fairly well-defined string ring. Iridescent colors; originally olive-green. From one-quart size bottle. c. 1770-80 period.

- Y-4592. Neck fragment from English wine bottle $3-1/8$ in. long, with fairly well-defined string ring. Glass has taken on iridescent colors; originally olive-green. From a one-quart size bottle. c. 1770-80 period.
- Y-4593. Neck fragment from English wine bottle, $2-3/4$ in. long, with well-defined string ring. Glass has taken on iridescent colors; originally olive-green color. From a one-quart size bottle. c. 1770-80 period.
- Y-4594. Long neck fragment ($4-3/8$ in. long) from English wine bottle, with well-defined string ring. Glass has taken on iridescent colors; originally olive-green in color. From one-quart size (or large) wine bottle. c. 1770-85 period.
- Y-4595. Reconstructed wine bottle, English, with only a few pieces missing. Bottle is $9-1/2$ in. high with neck $3-3/4$ in. long. Bell-shaped body. Fairly well-defined string ring. Bottle has taken on iridescent colors; originally olive-green. 4 in. diameter across base. Kickup $1-3/4$ in. high. c. 1770-1780 period.
- Y-4596. Base fragment from 17th century English wine bottle; about 3 in. diameter across base. Kickup only $3/4$ in. high. Glass badly decayed. From a one-quart size bottle. c. 1660-1675 period.
- Y-4597. Base fragment from 17th century English wine bottle, about 3 in. in diameter; kickup $5/8$ in. high. Glass badly decayed. From a one-quart size bottle. c. 1660-1675 period.
- Y-4598. About three-fourths of base from 17th century English wine bottle. About $3-1/8$ in. across base, kickup $1/2$ in. high. Glass has taken on iridescent colors; originally olive-green. From a one-quart size bottle. c. 1660-1675 period.
- Y-4599. About one-half base from 17th century English wine bottle. About $3-3/8$ in. across base; kickup $1/2$ in. high. Glass has taken on iridescent colors; originally olive-green in color. From one-quart size bottle. c. 1660-1675 period.
- Y-4600. Small fragment ($3-1/2$ in. long) from side of 17th century English wine bottle. Probably c. 1660-75 period.

- Y-4601. Small fragment (2-7/8 in. long) from shoulder of 17th century English wine bottle. c. 1660-75 period (probably).
- Y-4602. Small fragment (2-1/8 in. long) from base of 17th century English wine bottle; c. 1670-90 period.
- Y-4603. Small fragment (2-1/2 in. long) from base of 17th century English wine bottle; c. 1670-1690 period.
- Y-4604. Small fragment (2-3/8 in. long) from side of 17th century English wine bottle; c. 1670-1690 period.
- Y-4605. Small fragment (1-1/2 in. long) from side of 17th century English wine bottle, c. 1670-90 period.
- Y-4606. Fragment (1-1/8 in. long) from 18th century English wine bottle, green color.
- Y-4607. Fragment (2 in. long) from 18th century English wine bottle, green color.
- Y-4608. Fragment (2 in. long) from 18th century English wine bottle, green color.
- Y-4609. Fragment (1-1/2 in. long) from 18th century English wine bottle, green color.
- Y-4610. Fragment (1-inch long) from 18th century English wine bottle, green color.
- Y-4611. Fragment (1-1/2 in. long) from 18th century English wine bottle, green color.
- Y-4612. Fragment (1 in. long) from 18th century English wine bottle, green color.
- Y-4614. Base fragment (the kickup portion) from 19th century wine bottle, green color, probably American.
- Y-4615. Base fragment from 19th century English wine bottle (the kickup portion), green color originally but has taken on iridescent colors. Fragment 3-1/2 in. diameter at base, 4-1/2 in. high.
- Y-4616. Fragment from brown wine bottle, 1-7/8 in. long, 19th century, probably American.
- Y-4617. Large, thick fragment from large English wine bottle (3 gals. or more in size). Fragment 4-3/4 in. long, 5/8 in. thick. Green glass.

Window pane fragments.

- Y-4619. Window pane fragment, blue tint, 2 in. long, 18th century.
- Y-4620. Window pane fragment, blue tint, 1-1/4 in. long, probably 18th century.

Goblet fragments.

- Y-4621. Base (foot) from 19th century pressed glass goblet, made in a 3-part mould. Lead glass, 3 in. in diameter.
- Y-4622. Base (foot) from 19th century pressed glass goblet, made in a 3-part mould. (One third of base missing.) Lead glass, 2-7/8 in. diameter.
- Y-4623. Portion of stem and bowl from 18th century English wine-glass. Fragment found is 2-3/4 in. long. Ogee bowl, opaque white twist stem. c. 1760. Lead glass.

Other glass.

- Y-4624 through Y-4629. Six fragments from 19th century "milk glass" bowl. Opaque white color. Fragments include portions of handles, feet, rim, and sides of bowl. Probably 1850-1875 period.
- Y-4630. Neck fragment from small 18th century medicine bottle. Neck 1/2 in. high, 3/4 in. across top. Clear glass.
- Y-4631 and Y-4632. Fragments from base and side of 19th century patent medicine bottle. Last two letters, "ER", of illegible name in raised letters on fragment. Probably late 19th century. Blue tint.
- Y-4633 and Y-4634. Base and rim fragments from late 19th century drinking glass, made in a mould. Ten-sided. Lead glass, clear.
- Y-4635. Beaded rim from late 19th century glass kerosene lamp chimney, 2-3/4 in. diameter, clear glass.
- Y-4636. Small scalloped rim fragment from late 19th century kerosene lamp chimney, 2 in. long; clear glass.
- Y-4637 and Y-4638. Two fragments from late 19th century glass bottle, blue tint.

- Y-4639. Small fragment from glass bowl? Probably late 19th century. Purplish tint.
- Y-4640. Fragment of frosted glass which has been in a fire and become partially molten. Fragment 2 in. long.
- Y-4641. Fragment 2-1/8 in. long from bottle or goblet; probably 19th century. Originally clear glass which has taken on iridescent colors.

POTTERY

Indian.

- Y-4642. Grit-tempered earthenware pottery fragment, 2-3/8 in. long, also shell-tempered. Not glazed. Probably Indian.
- Y-4643. Grit-tempered and shell-tempered earthenware pottery fragment, 1-1/2 in. long. Not glazed. Probably Indian.

Delftware.

- Y-4644. Delftware fragment 2-1/4 in. long, from base of bowl or plate, with foot intact. Blue designs on light blue background. Cream body. Probably late 17th or early 18th century, English.
- Y-4645. Delftware fragment 2-3/4 in. long; portion of plate rim, blue designs on light blue background; cream body, English, late 17th or early 18th century.
- Y-4646. Delftware fragment 1 in. long. Blue design in white background, cream body. English, late 17th or early 18th century.
- Y-4647. Delftware fragment, 1-3/8 in. long. Blue and purple designs on white background, cream body. Late 17th or early 18th century.
- Y-4648. Delftware bowl or plate fragment, base portion, 2-1/2 in. long. Purple and white colors, cream body. English, 18th century.
- Y-4649. Delftware bowl or plate fragment, base fragment with foot, white opaque glaze, cream body. English, 18th century.
- Y-4650. Delftware fragment 1-1/2 in. long, opaque white glazed on cream body, probably English, late 17th century.

- Y-4651. Delftware fragment 2 in. long; white opaque glaze on cream body, English, probably 17th century.
- Y-4652. Three fragments from Delftware vessels; glaze has chipped off completely exposing the soft, porous, cream body.
- Y-4653. off completely exposing the soft, porous, cream body.
- Y-4654. Probably English, 17th or 18th century.

Stoneware.

- Y-4655. English salt-glazed stoneware fragment from mug, early 18th century; white body with brown colored rim.
- Y-4656. Gray stoneware fragment, 1-1/2 in. long, from jug or large mug; probably made at Yorktown.c. 1725.
- Y-4657 thru Y-4665. Nine pieces of mottled brown stoneware, from pots, jugs and mugs. Probably made at Yorktown, c. 1725:
- Y-4657. Rim fragment, 4-1/2 in. long with poorly formed rim, probably a "waster".
- Y-4658. Rim fragment, 1-3/4 in. long.
- Y-4659. Rim fragment, 1-1/4 in. long.
- Y-4660. Body fragment (from side of vessel), 2-1/8 in. long, probably from a mug.
- Y-4661. From side of vessel, 2 in. long.
- Y-4662. From side of vessel, 2 in. long.
- Y-4663. From side of vessel, 1-1/2 in. long.
- Y-4664. Fragment from side of vessel, 3/4 in. long.
- Y-4665. Handle fragment from jug, 1-1/4 in. long.
- Y-4666. Fragment from large mug, German stoneware, blue and gray, 18th century.
- Y-4667. Large fragment of Virginia stoneware: from rim and side of pot, blue design on dark gray background, 19th century. Fragment is 4-1/2 in. long.
- Y-4668. Fragment from stoneware bottle, probably German, 19th century.

Y-4706 thru Y-4714. Nine fragments of English salt-glazed ware, off-white color, from plates, bowls and mugs. c. 1740-60 period.

Y-4715. Base from stoneware bottle, 2-7/8 in. diam., 2-3/4 in. hig. American or German, 19th century.

Highly-fired earthenware.

Y-4669. Fragment has brown and light blue glaze on outside, purple glaze on inside, cream background. English industrial ware, 19th century. Mug fragment.

Y-4670 and Y-4671. Two fragments, brown glaze, streaked, on cream colored body. Rim fragment, probably American, 19th century.

Y-4672. Purplish-black glaze on cream background. This may have been a blue- or green-edged ware which has been in a severe fire. English, early 19th century.

Lead-glazed earthenware; highly-fired earthenware.

Y-4680 thru Y-4684. Five fragments of English transfer-printed ware, blue on white, Staffordshire, c. 1820-40 period.

Y-4685. English transfer-printed ware, highly fired, blue on white. Only one word on obverse side, "ENGLAND," is legible.

Y-4686. Small cream-colored handle from English creamware. Leeds? From a small teacup. Probably late 18th or early 19th century.

Y-4687. Lead-glazed earthenware fragment: mottled dark brown glazed on red body. May have been made in Virginia, late 18th or early 19th century.

Y-4688 and Y-4689. Two fragments with black manganese glaze on one side, unglazed on other side; red body. Probably English, 18th century. Perhaps made in Buckley, Flintshire?

Y-4690. Highly-fired redware, a stoneware covered on both sides with a chocolate-brown glaze; mug fragment, 3 in. long; decorated with an applied cream-colored slip decoration. Probably English, early 19th century.

Y-4691 thru Y-4705. Fifteen fragments of white earthenware, highly fired, with white glaze. From bowls, plates, platters. English and American, mid-19th century.

Y-4716 thru Y-4735. Twenty fragments of lead-glazed earthenware, brown glaze on red body. A few pieces have crudely applied slip decorations. Probably made in Virginia, late 18th century. One handle is from large bowl or milk pan.

Y-4736 and Y-4637. Two fragments of English "Royal Ironstone China." English, 19th century, c. 1825-50 period. Decorated with British royal crest. One fragment is from a bowl.

Y-4738. Grit-tempered ware, a lead-glazed earthenware. Somewhat similar to North Devon grit-tempered ware, but may have been made in Virginia. Probably 18th century. Reddish-brown glaze on red body; glazed on one side. One fragment is from large bowl or pot.

Y-4739. Lead-glazed earthenware, base fragment, probably from a bowl; red body; translucent glaze streaked with dark brown iron impurities.

Porcelain

Y-4673 and Y-4674. Two fragments of 19th century porcelain, fluted sides. Blue geometric designs (in rectangles) on rim. Probably English.

Y-4675 and Y-4676. Chinese porcelain fragments (two) from a bowl; blue on white decoration. Late 18th or early 19th century.

Y-4677 and Y-4678. Two fragments of Chinese export porcelain; early 19th century.

Y-4679. Rim fragment from plate, probably American porcelain, 19th century.

Slate

Y-4740. Large fragment, 4 in. wide by 7 in. long, greenish-gray, probably Buckingham, late 18th or early 19th century.

Y-4741. Small fragment of slate, 2-1/4 in. long, probably English, 18th century.

METAL WARE

- Y-4742. Hand-forged nail, probably 18th century.
- Y-4743. Hand-forged nail, probably 18th century.
- Y-4744. Brass button, English, 19th century. Incised on obverse side: GILT. STANDARD COLOUR.
- Y-4745. Brass upholstery tack, 5/8 in. long; shank four-sided; cup-shaped head, 1/2 in. diameter.
- Y-4746. Piece of scrap lead 2-1/2 in. long.
- Y-4747. Piece of scrap copper, 1-3/4 in. long.
- Y-320. Hinge, "H" type, old no. 1682.
- Y-330. Key, old no. 445.
- Y-335. Spike, old no. 1354.
- Y-363. Harness, "fragment," old no. 1328.
- Y-372. Buckle, old no. 1368.
- Y-383. Iron object, "heart shaped," old no. 1368.
- Y-390. Pot leg, old no. 1471.
- Y-404. Scale arm, old no. 1535.
- Y-405. Handle, old no. 1329.
- Y-419. Pot, old no. 2082.
- Y-423. Chisel blade, old no. 1521.
- Y-429. Hook, old no. 1476.
- Y-432. Bar, "off-set," old no. 1479.
- Y-433. Rod, "round," old no. 1578.
- Y-434. Ring, "w/wedge," old no. 1529.
- Y-441. Key, old no. 1420.
- Y-452. Pintle, old no. 1355.

- Y-453. Pintle, old no. 1369.
- Y-459. Lock, "cabinet," old no. 407.
- Y-463. Lock, "box, plate only," old no. 1470.
- Y-466. Lock, "pad," old no. 1553.
- Y-476. Lock, "box," old no. 1466.
- Y-484. Lock bolt, old no. 1332.
- Y-485. Lock bolt, old no. 734.
- Y-494. Lock, "pad," old no. 545.
- Y-497. Lock, "pad," old no. 1378.
- Y-502. Lock, "cabinet," old no. 402.
- Y-504. Lock, "pad," old no. 1554.
- Y-513. Hinge, "strap," old no. 1383.
- Y-515. Hinge, "strap," old no. 1345.
- Y-516. Hinge, "strap," old no. 1538.
- Y-520. Hinge, "strap," old no. 1473.
- Y-526. Hinge, "butterfly," old no. 400.
- Y-527. Hinge, "butterfly," old no. 1361.
- Y-529. Hinge, "butterfly," old no. 1454.
- Y-533. Hinge, "H", old no. 406.
- Y-535. Hinge, "H", old no. 1539.
- Y-540. Hinge, "H", old no. 1474.
- Y-544. Hinge, "butterfly," old no. 1551.
- Y-551. Hinge, "H", old no. 399.
- Y-522. Hinge, "H", old no. 1543.
- Y-554. Hinge, "H-L," old no. 404.

Y-556. Hinge, "H-L," old no. 1546.
 Y-578. Hinge, "butterfly," old no. 1364.
 Y-581. Spike, 8-1/2 in. long, old no. 1363.
 Y-584. File, "triangular," old no. 1346.
 Y-591. Spike, 6-9/16 in. long, old no. 1337.
 Y-592. Spike, 4-13/16 in. long, old no. 1569.
 Y-596. Spike, 3-13/16 in. long, old no. 1356.
 Y-599. Spike, 4-11/16 in. long, old no. 1375.
 Y-603. Spike, 6-1/16 in. long, old no. 603.
 Y-608. Spike, 6 in. long, old no. 1353.
 Y-623. Spike, 5-3/4 in. long, old no. 1333.
 Y-626. Spike, 2-15/16 in. long, old no. 1519.
 Y-641. Bolt, old no. 1453.
 Y-643. Bolt, old no. 1373.
 Y-644. Bolt, old no. 1349.
 Y-649. Ring, old no. 1563.
 Y-650. Ring, old no. 1558.
 Y-652. Hook, old no. 455.
 Y-656. Hook, "swivel," old no. 542.
 Y-676. Clew, old no. 444.
 Y-681. Scythe, "1 hand," old no. 1524.
 Y-682. Iron object, "pierced flat," old no. 1544.
 Y-700. Hook, old no. 544.
 Y-701. Hook, old no. 1455.
 Y-704. Hook, old no. 1350.

Y-705. Holt, w/eye, old no. 1566.
 Y-712. Finial, old no. 459.
 Y-718. Ring, old no. 1373.
 Y-719. Ring, old no. 1374.
 Y-720. Ring, old no. 1365.
 Y-725. Stirrup, old no. 454.
 Y-726. Hasp, old no. 1539.
 Y-736. Hook, old no. 1331.
 Y-744. Iron Strap, old no. 1384.
 Y-794. Bayonet, old no. 450.
 Y-814. Bridle bit, old no. 456.
 Y-830. Stirrup, old no. 546.
 Y-833. Stirrup, old no. 403.
 Y-834. Stirrup, old no. 451.
 Y-841. Canteen, old no. 1492.
 Y-976. Spike, old no. 1347.
 Y-982. Saw blade, "frag," old no. 1380.
 Y-983. Ring, old no. 1564.
 Y-993. Bolt, old no. 1336.
 Y-994. Bolt, old no. 1477.
 Y-995. Collar, cannon hub box (?) frag, old no. 1457.
 Y-1000. Ring, old no. 1557.
 Y-1021. Ring, old no. 1365.
 Y-1036. Fork, old no. 1522.
 Y-1083. Latch, old no. 1562.
 Y-1280. Pintle, old no. 1338.

Y-1290. Spring, "musket," old no. 1371.
 Y-1307. Curry Comb, old no. 403.
 Y-1311. File, "1/2 round," old no. 1342.
 Y-1333. Weight (?), old no. 1515.
 Y-1340. Hasp, old no. 1452.
 Y-1344. Spike, old no. 1344.
 Y-1367. Iron object, old no. 1518.
 Y-1399. Chair, old no. 1525.
 Y-1435. Gun barrel, old no. 1570.
 Y-1438. Musket barrel, old no. 457.
 Y-1439. Drawknife, "large," old no. 458.
 Y-1472. Shovel, old no. 1577.
 Y-1480. Fish hook, old no. 1467.
 Y-1482. Knife, old no. 1536.
 Y-1508. Bolt, "door," old no. 1541.
 Y-1528. Button, "brass-gold plate," old no. 1646.
 Y-1581. Hoe, old no. 1461.
 Y-1621. Pin, w/eye, old no. 156.
 Y-1638. Staple, old no. 1377.
 Y-1639. Staple, old no. 1367.
 Y-1640. Hasp, incomplete, old no. 1532.
 Y-1642. Stirrup, incomplete, old no. 453.
 Y-1646. Hook, iron w/eye, old no. 1372.
 Y-1649. Hook, iron, old no. 1540.
 Y-1652. Bolt, w/eye, old no. 1568.

Y-1659. Hinge, fragment, old no. 1579.
 Y-1660. Pin, iron, w/eye, old no. 1523.
 Y-1662. Staple, old no. 1463.
 Y-1666. Hasp, old no. 1531.
 Y-1690. Flatiron, old no. 1533.
 Y-1698. Buckle, old no. 1520.
 Y-1701. Stove lid, iron, old no. 1517.
 Y-1708. Unidentified iron, old no. 1555.
 Y-1709. Pintle, old no. 409.
 Y-1713. Pintle, old no. 1458.
 Y-1714. Pintle, old no. 1465.
 Y-1725. Pot handle, old no. 1552.
 Y-1732. Lock, pistol, fragment, old no. 448.
 Y-1738. Hinge, strap, old no. 1478.
 Y-1744. Hinge, old no. 1437.
 Y-1747. Hinge, "H", old no. 1360.
 Y-1765. Tongs, fire, old no. 1390.
 Y-1766. Poker, fire, old no. 1385.
 Y-1771. Latch, thumb, door, old no. 1330.
 Y-1774. Latch, door, old no. 1370.
 Y-1775. Pintle, old no. 1456.
 Y-1787. Lock, poor, iron, fragment, old no. 1389.
 Y-1791. Scales, part of, old no. 1468.
 Y-1794. Hook, iron, wagon, old no. 1527.
 Y-1812. Andiron, old no. 1386.
 Y-1819. Lock, box, cover only, brass, old no. 733.

Y-1821. Key, bit, brass, old no. 1644.
 Y-1827. Key, clock, brass, old no. 1641.
 Y-1863. Belt plate, brass w/lead fill, old no. 1420.
 Y-1898. Hook, belt, brass, old no. 1645.
 Y-1947. Buckle, brass, old no. 1648.
 Y-2147. Lock, door fragment, old no. 1388.
 Y-2182. Hinge, strap, old no. 1341.
 Y-2190. Hinge, "H-L," old no. 405.
 Y-2193. Hinge, "butterfly," old no. 1460.
 Y-2194. Hinge, "butterfly," old no. 1362.
 Y-2196. Hinge, "H", old no. unk.
 Y-2222. Buckle, brass, old no. 1640.
 Y-2223. Buckle, brass, old no. 1643.
 Y-2224. Buckle, brass, old no. 1649.
 Y-2277. Button, brass, old no. 1647.
 Y-2522. River, frow, froe, old no. 539.

APPENDIX IV

Some Digges Ancestry:

Edward Digges Forebearers

(Leonard, Thomas, and Dudley)

Governor Edward Digges was the fourth son of Sir Dudley Digges and from a well-established English family which had been prominent for three generations. In descent, through families of other names, Edward could have traced his ancestry back to King Edward III of England.¹

Seemingly the first Digges of prominence in his own right was Leonard Digges of Wooton Court in Kent, the son of James Digges, Esquire, and his second wife, Philippa Engham. He, it is reported, was the first of the name to be admitted in the list "of the most eminent persons who have flourished in Great Britain and Ireland." Educated at University College in Oxford, he became a noted mathematician, authoring such works as Tectonicon (1556) on measuring land, Pantometria:

1. Prince John of Gaunt (Duke of Lancaster), Lady Joan of Beaufort, who married Sir Ralph Nevill, and then four Nevills, three of them lords of Bergavenny and then Lady Nevill who married Sir Warhal St. Ledger. From the Nevill-St. Ledger marriage came Lady Anne St. Ledger who married Thomas Digges of Digges Court in Kent. Thomas Digges was the son of Leonard Digges of Wooton Court, Kent. This is from "The Digges (Diggs) Family," a typescript of book excerpts, letters and miscellaneous materials, compiled by Mrs. George D. Chenoweth of Yorktown, Virginia, and dated May 1935. There is a copy in the library of Colonial NHP. The above is largely from Browning's Americans of Royal Descent, 3rd edition (Philadelphia, 1904), pp. 700-01, being pages 4-6 of the manuscript.)

A Geometrical Practice (1571), and A Prognostication Everlasting, an astrological work (1553-56). In addition to his excellence in mathematics and astrology he was a skillful architect and an expert surveyor. He died in 1574.²

Thomas Digges of Digges Court in Kent, the "sonne and heyre" of Leonard, married Lady Anne St. Ledger. He served as Muster-Master General of the English Army in the Low Countries. He died in 1594 but Anne lived on to 1636 when she was 81. Perhaps his burial monument inscription, translated from Latin, helps to tell his story: "Here lieth in an assured hope should rise in Christ, Thomas Diggs,³ Esquire, some time Muster-Master of the English army in the low countries; a man zealously affected to true religion, was discreet, courteous, faithful to his friends and of rare knowledge in geometry, astrology, and other mathematical sciences; who finished his transitory life with a happy end in Anno 1595. That the dead might live Christ dyed." He left as issue Dudley, "his sonne and heyre," as well as Leonard, "his second sonne" (the noted poet, 1588-1635), Margaret, and Ursula. William and Mary had died quite young.⁴

Educated at Cambridge, where he took a B.A. degree in 1551 and an M.A. in 1557, Thomas entered Parliament in 1572, where he served until

2. Ibid., p. 25; Lyon G. Tyler, "The Pedigree of a Representative Virginia Planter," Wm. and Mary Quarterly, 1st Series, 1, 87-88.

3. Often in this period the family name spelling was as this rather than Digges which became current later.

4. Chenoweth, "The Digges Family" MSS, pp. 12-13, 25; Tyler, "Pedigree," Wm. and Mary Quarterly, 1st Ser. 1, 88!

1585. He constructed the fortifications of Dover Harbot and was Muster-Master General of the English forces in the Netherlands, 1586-94. About 1590 he was interested in Antarctic discoveries.⁵ He also edited his father's Pantometria as well as various treatises on science and military engineering.

Among the children of Sir Thomas Digges was Dudley, who was born in 1583 at Digges Court in Barham, Kent. He entered University College in Oxford as a gentleman commoner and took the degree of B.A. in 1601, being knighted by James I soon after the king's ascension to the throne. The manor and castle of Chilham he acquired through marriage to Lady Mary, the daughter of Sir Thomas Kempe of Olantigh in Kent, and built his manor mansion here, completing it about 1616.⁶ From his marriage came eight sons and three daughters.

Dudley was active in many fields, as jurist, ambassador, traveler, explorer, author and representative. He was in Parliament from time to time, from Twekesbury (1604-1611, etc.) and Kent (1628). He went as ambassador to Russia in 1618 and as a special agent to Holland two years later. Seemingly he was a member of the King's privy

5. Alexander Brown, The Genesis of the United States (Boston, 1890), 2, 878-80.

6. The more than four thousand acres of Chilham Castle Manor had a "beautiful situation," as reported in 1892. "The old Manor built of english brick [by Digges] was torn down many years ago, and in its place arose the modern stone mansion of the present owner, Mr. Riggs." "An engraving of Chilham Castle made in 1777 shows it to have been a grand place." It is pictured in the Beauties of England and Wales, the County Kent volume (October 1807.) Letter from Annie Laurie Diltz to Calvin W. Digges, October 15, 1892, in Chenoweth, "The Digges Family," pp. 14-16. See also pp. 1-2, 29-30.

chamber in 1618. In due course, however, in the struggle of the King with Parliament he lost some royal favor likely in his contest with the Duke of Buckingham and for his independent opinions. He was noted as a "man of volubility and elegance of speech," and it was concluded that generally "in the struggle between privilege and prerogative, he took the part of the people." Seemingly this cost him time in the Tower, some imprisonment in the fleet, and an "exile detail" on assignment to Ireland, all of relatively short duration. Through a strenuous advocate for the liberty of the subject, after Buckingham's death he did not show disposition to oppose government measures. In 1630 he became Master of the Rolls. With this grant he entered himself as a member of the society of Grays Inn and was made a bencher. Now he had opportunity in the legal field and also became an author with his Rights and Privileges of the Subject, The Compleat Ambassador, and such.

Dudley was early an avid exponent of discovery, and was active in the search for the northwest passage even with aid in sending out Henry Hudson in 1610. "Cape Digges" and "Digges Iland" were named for him. In due course he became a leading member of the East India Company and joined the Muscovy as well. He was particularly active in the Virginia Company and in Virginia. "We find him constantly interested in Virginia, willing to advance the enterprise by lotteries or by religion." It was about 1613 that "Diggs his hundred" was settled on the north side of the James well above Jamestown. He also patented lands in Virginia in 1620. His interest and activities in discovery and colonization continued until his death in 1639. He was buried at Chilham: "An accomplished scholar, traveler, statesman, and author, a patriotic member of

Parliament, and a princely merchant; his understanding few could equal; his virtues fewer could equal; and the wisest men reckoned his death among the public calamities of those times." This, in part, was the testimony, on his burial memorial.⁷

7. Brown, Genesis, 2, 878-80; Chenoweth, "The Digges Family," pp. 1-2, 14-16, also pp. 33-36 quoting A Biographical Dictionary of the Judges of England, 1066-1870; Tyler, "Pedigree" in Wm. and Mary Quarterly, 1st. Ser., 1, 211. There is a likeness of Sir Dudley, being a C. Turner "engraving of a drawing by Harding, after the original in the collection of William Hammond, Esq., at St. Albans Court, 1813, and is therefore nearly three hundred years old." Letter from William S. Diggs (Cincinnati, Ohio) in Chenoweth, "Digges Family," pp. 1-2). This likeness is in Brown's Genesis of the United States (p. 341).

ILLUSTRATIONS

(Numbers in parentheses below the illustration numbers, are Colonial NHP negative numbers)

The cover photograph is the Digges Family Tombs as restored in 1966.

PLATE 1

A French Plan of 1781. The Section Here Covers the Area of the York River from Yorktown to King Creek. Note "Digges's old house" near upper center. ("Notes Sur Les Environs de York", photocopy in Park Library from manuscript map in Library of Congress)

(16,610)



PLATE 2

Section from Another 1781 Yorktown Siege Plan

Note especially the developed area of "Diggs" and presumably the developed area, with road to it, just to the left at the mouth of what is Felgate Creek.

("Carte de la Campagne Faite en Virginia in 1781" by Pechon, aide de camp to General St. Simon. Photocopy in Colonial NHP Library of Congress (original in Paris, Etats-Majors, IID 174).)

(16,653)



PLATE 3

Ruins of the Governor Edward Digges Home Excavated in 1934.

(289)



PLATE 4

Ruins of the Governor Edward Digges Home - Another
View (Dated May 12, 1934).

(294)



PLATE 5

Basement Steps of Governor Edward Digges Home
(Photograph made on April 10, 1934)

(291)



PLATE 6

Near Start of Excavation of First Digges Home
(Photograph dated April 5, 1934)

(288)



PLATE 7

One Wall of the Old Home is Exposed (May, 1934)

(311)



PLATE 8

Labor for the Exploratory Search of the Digges Place
Came Largely from the Civilian Conservation Corps.

(286)



PLATE 9

A Hypothetical View of the Early Digges Home. This is by John Waterhouse Herndon in his "The Stories of 'Bellfield' and Edward Digges . . ." (a typewritten compilation dated 1950, copy in the Colonial NHP Library, p. 12.) (16,655)

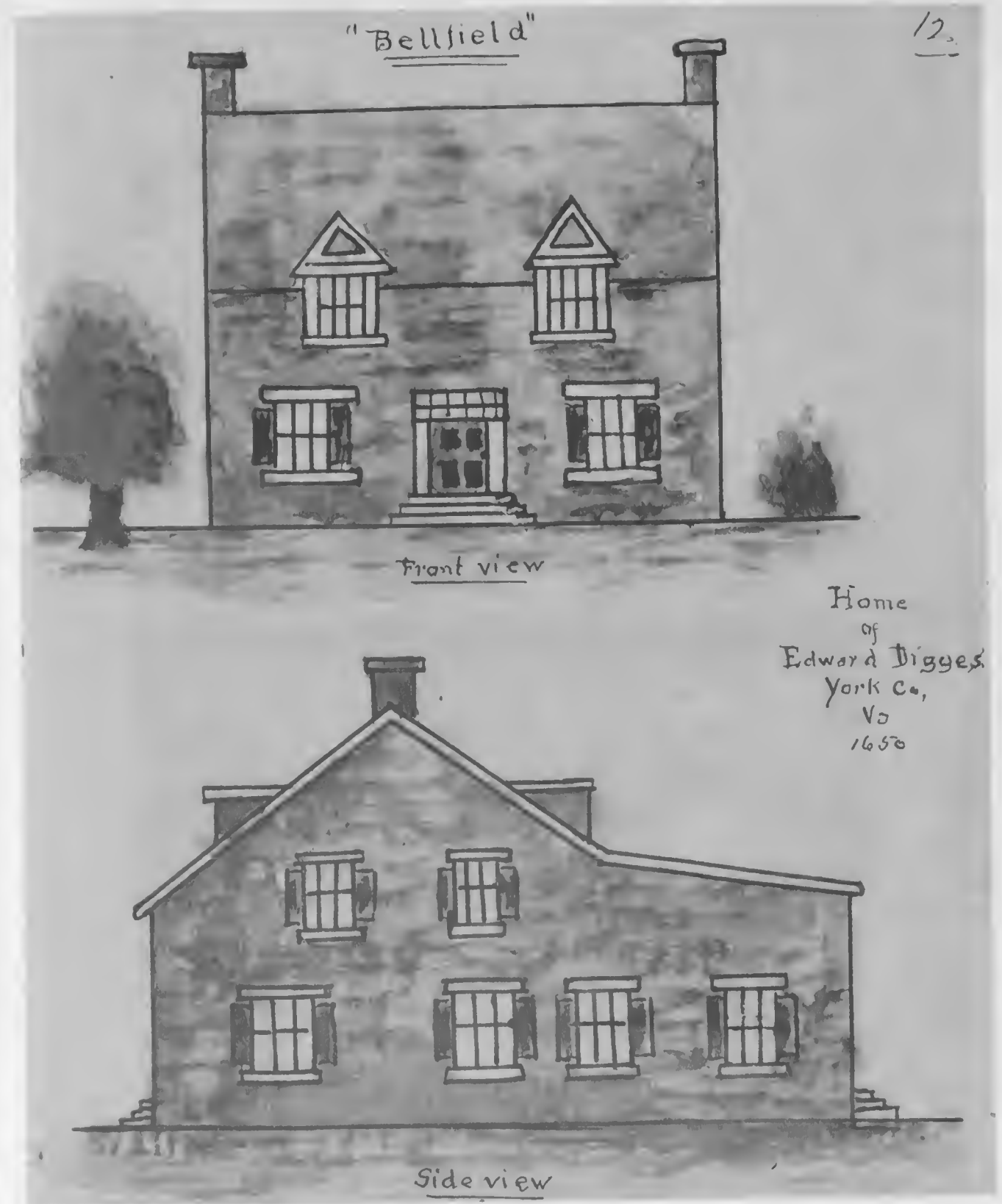
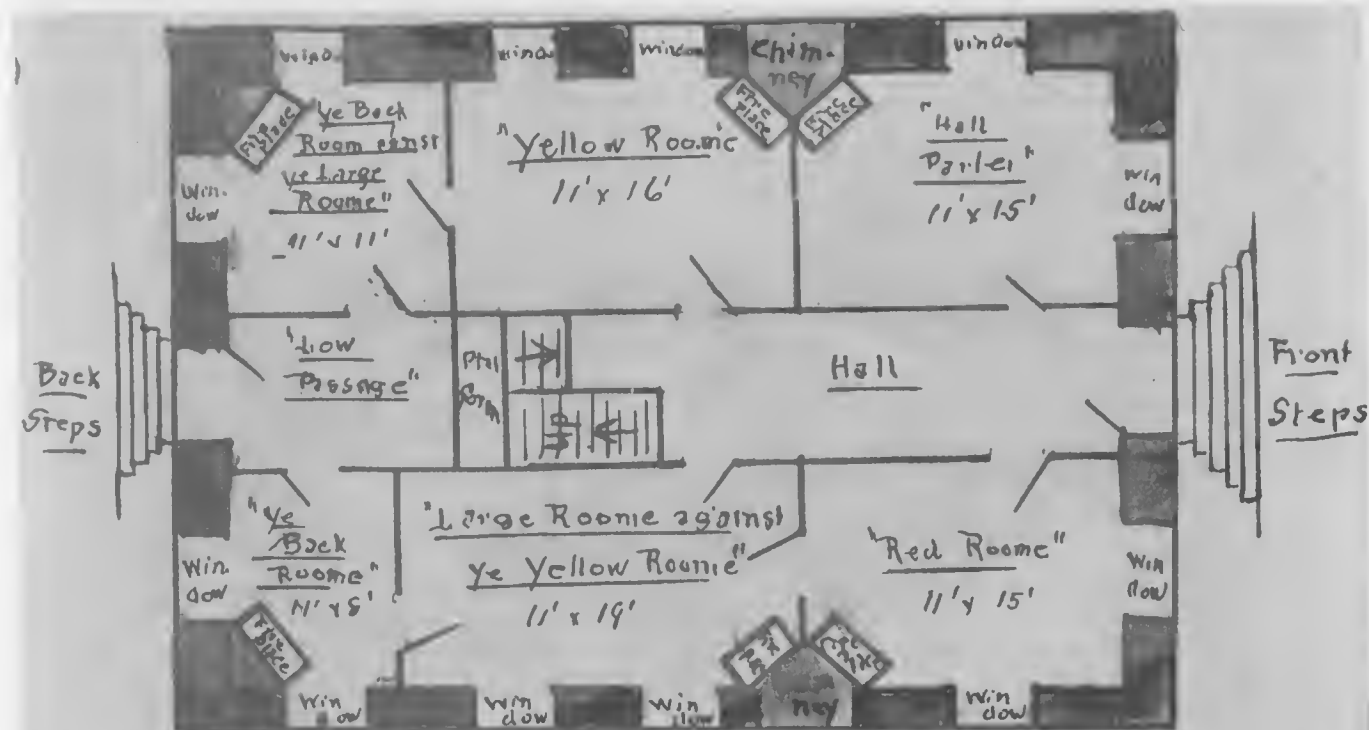


PLATE 10

Another Conjectural Drawing of the First Floor and Attic. (Herndon, "The Stories of 'Bellfield' and Edward Digges," p. 13.)



1st Floor - ground Plan.



Attic

PLATE 11

Herndon's Rendition of the Basement Plan of the
Early Digges Home (p. 14)

(16,656)

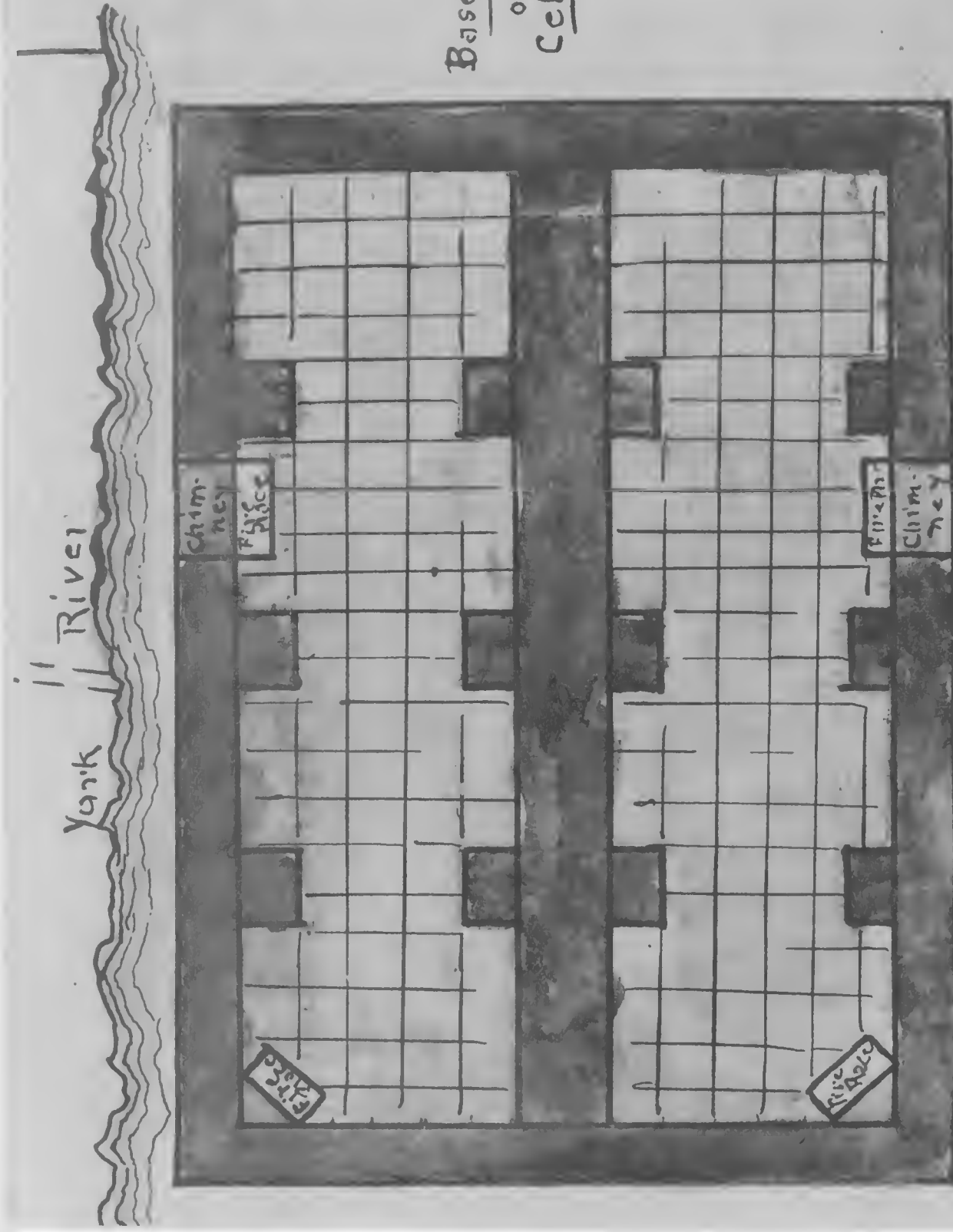


PLATE 12

A Plot Plan Recordation of Existing Surface Indications
and Legends of This Century. (Herndon, "The Stories of 'Bellfield'
and Edward Digges," p. 14.)

(16,658)

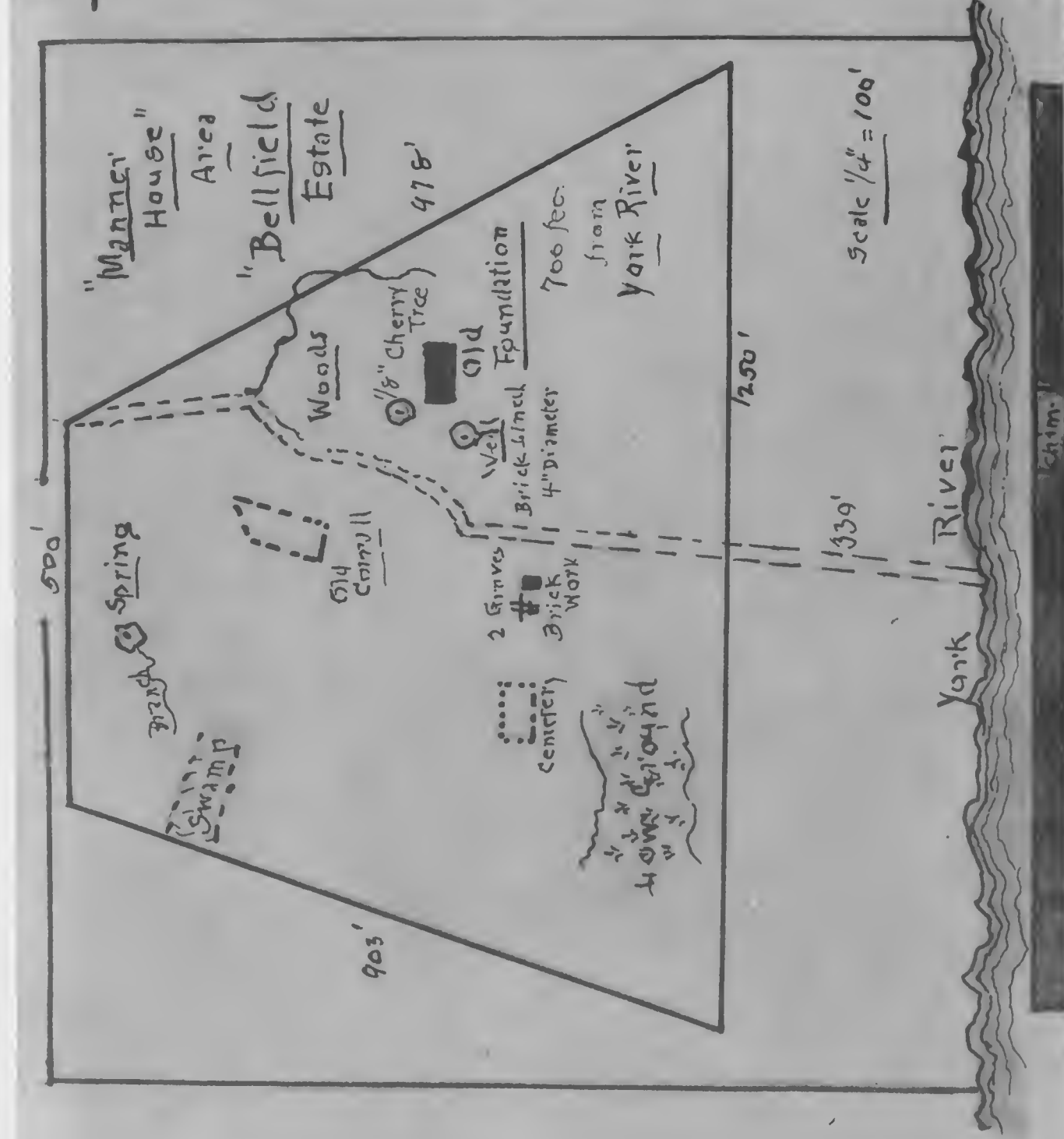


PLATE 13

The Second Digges Home in a Decaying State, About 1916
(a 1966 copy from an old Blow Family album Yorktown view).

(16,563)



PLATE 14

A Closer View of Part of the Old House (from a 1934 copy of an old photograph, the same, or essentially the same, as No. 13 above.)

(295)



PLATE 15

The South End of the Second Home, About 1916. From
a 1934 copy of an old view. (296)



PLATE 16

Archeological Reconnaissance in Progress in March, 1934.
(These presumably are the remains of a dependency, the smokehouse
associated with the second Digges Home.)

(285)



PLATE 17

The Digges Family Tombs in 1906

Note the absence of all vegetation, in what is now a wooded area, between the tombs and York River. There are two errors in the captions. Governor Edward Digges died in 1675. The tomb on the far left is that of Cole Digges. It was his son Colonel Edward that erected the tomb as a memorial for his father. (The photograph is from The William and Mary Quarterly, 1st Series, 15 (July, 1906), opposite p. 1.)

(16,609)



COL. EDWARD DIGGES
Died March 22, 1710

SIR JOHN DIGGES
Died 1671

COL. WARD DIGGES
Died 1710

PLATE 18

This Square Brick Structure Was Likely a Burial Vault Used by the McCandlish Family in the Nineteenth Century. Stones formerly near it describe the burial of McCandlish children. "Three marble slabs had been on top the structure once," Paul Smith of the Naval Weapons Station staff is reported to have said. (Newport News, Va., The Times-Herald, February 7, 1970 in a Bellfield story.) Possibly one of the three is that pictured below in Illustration No. 19.

(16,654)

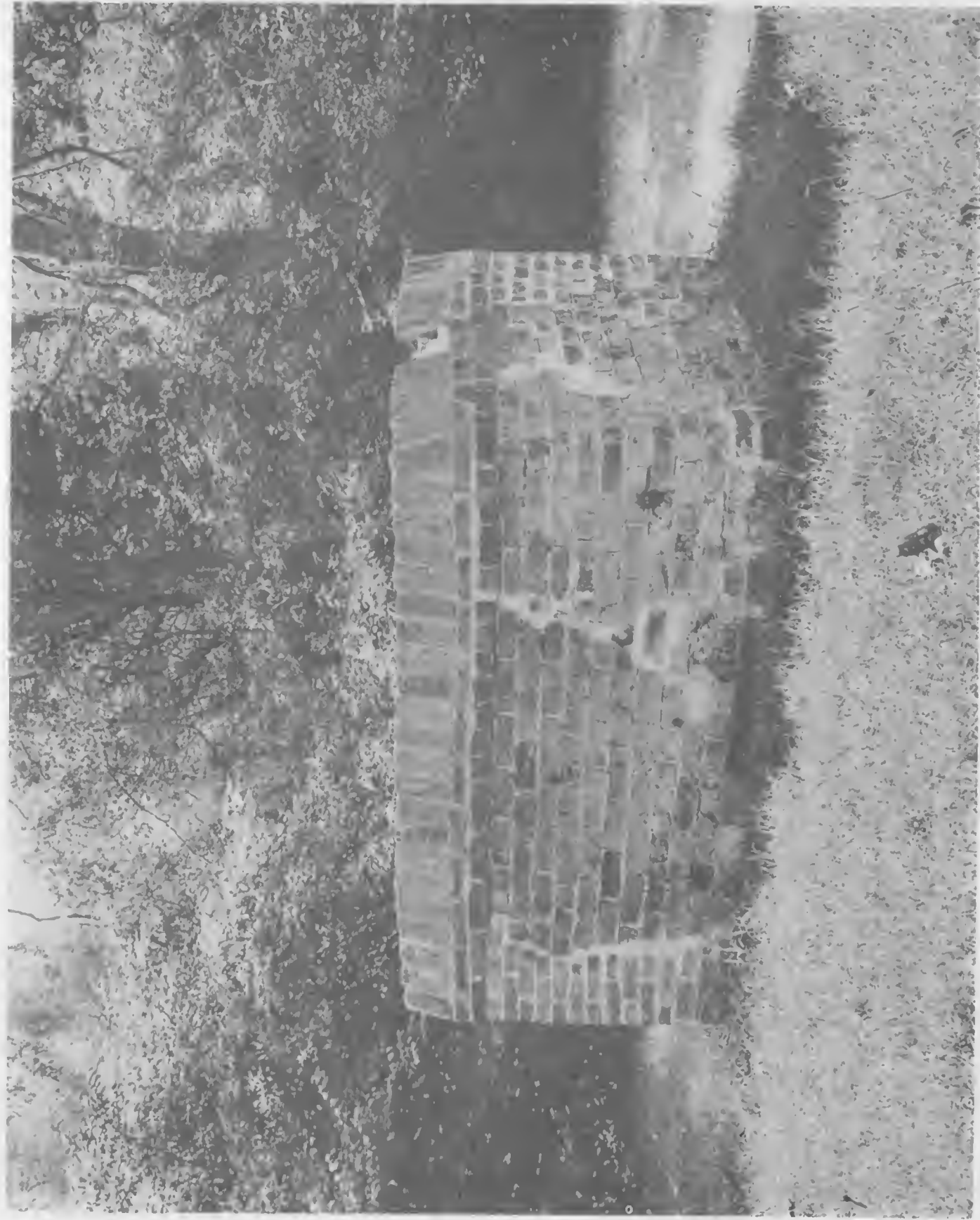


PLATE 19

The Grave Stone of the Infant Mary Mandavill
McCandlish (United States Navy Photograph)

The surviving fragments of this and other stones,
broken and partly removed by vandals, have been stored
by Colonial NHP. All were near the square brick struc-
ture as in Illustration No. 20.



PLATE 20

The Brick "Vault" with Tombstones Askew. (March 14,
1934) (283)



PLATE 21

Objects Excavated from the Old Digges Home Site in 1934-1935 and Now a Part of the Colonial NHP Collection Housed at Jamestown. (See also, illustrations Nos. 22-33)

(16,620)



PLATE 22

Locks and Hinges from the Site.

(16,624)



BELLFIELD ARTIFACTS

PLATE 23

More Hinges from the Digges House.

(16,618)



PLATE 24

Miscellaneous Iron Objects from Bellfield.

(16,622)



PLATE 25

Fireplace Tools and Other.

(16,623)



PLATE 26

A Variety of Things of Iron.

(16,617)



BELLFIELD ARTIFACTS

PLATE 27

Another Miscellany of Iron Objects.

(16,619)



BELLFELD ARTIFACTS

PLATE 28

Stirups, Buckles and Military.

(16,621)

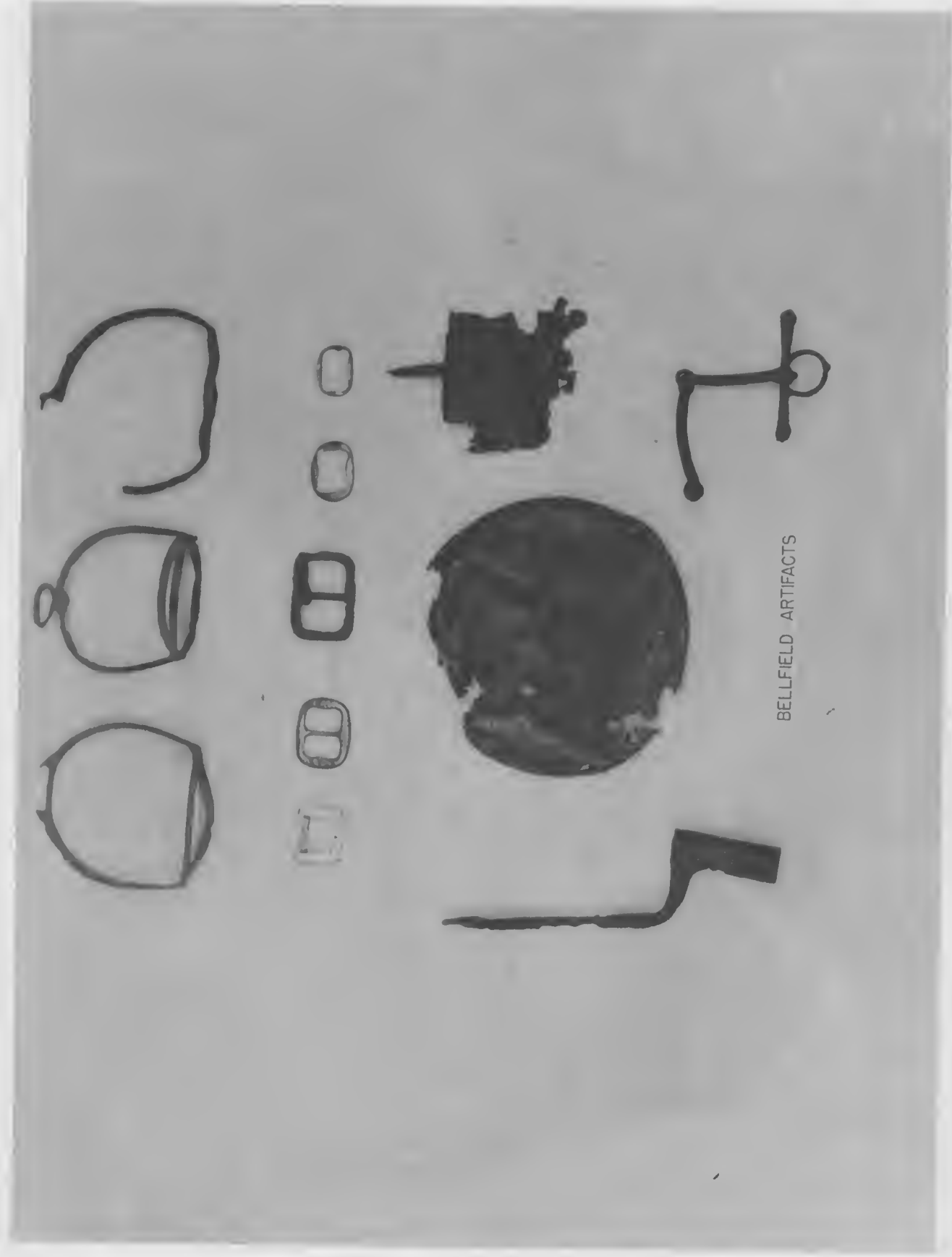


PLATE 29

Glass Objects from the Digges Place.

(16,613)



PLATE 30

Glass Bottles and Pieces from Bellfield

(16,612)



PLATE 31

Ceramic Fragments Taken from the Home Site.

(16,615)



PLATE 32

Ceramics of Other Types.

(16,616)



PLATE 33

More Fragments of Ceramic Wares Taken From the Digges Manor House. (All are now in the Park collection at Jamestown.)

(16,614)



